

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



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70P WHERE SOLD

Two shops to soon enjoy a new lease of life

A TOWN centre street in Oswestry will get a new lease of life as two empty shops are taken over.

Cross Street has seen several buildings lie empty for a number of years, despite the town council contacting the owners and calling for them to be actively marketed.

But it has now been revealed that two shops on the street will re-open

in weeks, one a Nightingale House Hospice charity shop, the other a pop up shop called Jolt.

Both let by Halls Commercial, they are due to be open in time for the town's food and drink festival in July. Rebecca Welch, of Halls, said: "These are two interesting stores set to open in Oswestry. It is the first time Nightingale House will have a

presence in the town after helping so many people from this area. Designs In Mind has been based in the town for many years so we are delighted they are bringing the Jolt brand, which proved very popular in London, to their home town."

Jolt includes vibrant homeware and prints for the home in bold colours and patterns and the shop will

also provide workshops for the public to try their hand at screen printing and lino printing.

Jo Watkins, from Designs in Mind, said the group venturing out from its studio nearby into its own retail premises was something new.

She said: "We were part of a social enterprise pop up shop in London at Christmas and it was very successful.

"This next retail experiment in the premises next door to our studio is a great opportunity to trial the idea of a shop before we get a permanent retail space base."

"There are so many interesting things happening in Oswestry so it is great to be able to be part of this too and reduce the number of empty shops here."

PLEDGE GIVEN ON BUSINESS PARK

Report by Naomi Penrose

WORK on the proposed 60-acre Oswestry Innovation Park will have started before the end of the year, the deputy leader of Shropshire Council has pledged.

Councillor Steve Charmley, who represents Whittington on Shropshire Council, made the assurance following one of the first meetings of Conservative councillors on the local authority since last month's council election.

The site, located just off the Mile End roundabout, has stood as vacant agricultural land for a number of years.

Councillor Charmley said: "This is one of the key sites in the area that we have to play with and new council leader Peter Nutting has already stressed the importance of investing in business parks around the county's market towns."

"There is some funding available, I think it's about £7 million across the Marches LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) areas and the Innovation Park is one of the projects bidding to access that."

"As it stands at the moment we have a planning application for the Innovation Park that is ready to go, once the final negotiations have taken place with Highways England."

It is hoped the application will be submitted with Shropshire Council within the coming weeks, according to Councillor Charmley.

He said: "Once it has been submitted, I'd like to think a decision is made by September and if approved, the first stage will be in the ground by the end of the year."

"Economic prosperity in Oswestry is at the forefront of what we want to achieve."

"There's currently a planning application in for 600 homes on Shrewsbury Road in the town, we need to create the jobs for those houses because one doesn't really work very well without the other."

The Oswestry Innovation Park site could create about 1,500 new jobs, he said.

Talented artists ready to open up their doors



Ros Hornbuckle is to show her collection of woven tapestries when she opens up her studio to the public. Photo: Jamie Ricketts.

ARTISTS are preparing to throw open their studios to the public to allow people to see them at work.

Members of the Borderland Visual Arts group, based in Oswestry, say the initiative will offer members of the public a chance to view some of their latest work.

Ros Hornbuckle and her husband Graham Mitchell are among the artists who will be showcasing their works when the doors are opened up to a host of studios in the area.

The Open Studios scheme will run on the

weekends of June 10 and 11 and June 17 and 18 from 10am until 5pm.

Visitors can tour 15 studios, free of charge, that will show the work of 30 artists during the Open Studios programme.

Mrs Hornbuckle said: "This will be a fantastic opportunity for the public to see art on display and to meet the artists working in their studios, and we do hope it inspires people in some way."

She added: "I create woven tapestries, mainly of the Welsh coast, which is my fa-

vourite coastline and consists of some of my favourite places including Anglesey, while my husband Graham is a photographer but also a jewellery maker."

"His photography is mainly of places we like to walk in the Oswestry area."

New for this year, the artists who are taking part in the Open Studios event are encouraging visitors to create their own unique souvenir. They can do this by collecting printing blocks at each studio they visit to create their own artwork.

HEALTH

Bosses apologise over suspension of maternity services

HEALTH bosses have apologised after staff sickness at Telford's Princess Royal Hospital forced the closure of birthing services at Oswestry's maternity unit at the weekend.

Some services at the Oswestry midwife led maternity unit, as well as at a similar unit at Bridgnorth, were temporarily suspended from 8pm on Friday to 8am on Tuesday. Women booked to give birth at Oswestry or Bridgnorth who went into labour during the temporary suspension of services were offered a birth at another midwife led unit. Community antenatal and postnatal appointments continued as planned at Oswestry and Bridgnorth during daytime hours.

The suspension of services was due to ongoing staff sickness affecting the Consultant-Led Unit and Wrekin Midwife Led Unit at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, meaning staff needed to be redeployed.

Sarah Jamieson, head of midwifery at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: "This temporary suspension of services is purely due to staff sickness and I would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause."

The Oswestry unit was forced to close earlier this year after a similar staff sickness problem.

A protest march was held in the town in March over fears the unit will be downgraded by health bosses in the future.

EMERGENCY

Crews called out to fight warehouse fire

FIRE crews from four towns were called out to tackle a blaze at a Welshpool business.

Thousands of pounds of carpets were destroyed in the suspected arson attack on Canalside Carpets' warehouse. Nobody was injured in the fire, which broke out at about 11.45pm on Thursday.

Crews from Welshpool, Montgomery, Llanfair Caereinion and Oswestry were called to tackle the blaze which took until 4.30am on Friday to get under control.

A 48-year-old man was arrested in connection with the blaze.

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Voters have their say on election



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Living museum plan for town's former crown court

Report by Naomi Penrose

A FORMER crown court building could be transformed into a museum where visitors can watch historic court hearings acted out before their eyes.

The plans could see the former Welshpool Crown Court in the town hall become a living museum in a bid to offer the public a chance to take a step back in time and discover more about the town's history.

Welshpool Town Council is the driving force behind the scheme, and in recent weeks town clerk Robert Robinson has met with the Heritage Lottery Fund, who have confirmed a figure of up to £100,000 could be available for the project.

Mr Robinson said: "The town hall is the centrepiece of Welshpool town centre and dominates the street. It is important to the history of Welshpool and has been refurbished over the last 10 years following many years of neglect and lack of maintenance.

"The council has been considering a positive use for this room for some time and is of a mind to take forward a scheme to try and preserve history, particularly as the council archives have now progressed in their organisation by the employment of an archives officer since 2010. The plan is to progress a living museum and court scene which can be visited by the public enabling them to experience its past and see more of the local history of Welshpool.

"The proposal will include a living museum with the public able to see how it would have been, to see the town's artefacts and also attend mock hearings in the courtroom."

The plans would include the renovation of the existing courtroom fittings, which are intact, as well as dummies dressed to show how the court would have been, a press button operation for the public to see past court scenes in front of their eyes, public performances with actors completing a court scene, and interpretation boards.

The court ceased in 2005, when all crown court hearings were relocated to Mold. Welshpool Town Council has estimated the cost of funding the project would be about £85,000, with the majority of it coming from grant funding.

The council's services and property committee is to discuss the project at its next meeting on Wednesday.

Hillfort volunteers making a difference



Taking a look at the new sign at Old Oswestry Hillfort are Annie Bethell, far left, and Helen Allen, second from right, of English Heritage and volunteers Neil Phillips and Maggie Rowlands

CYCLISTS have been causing damage to Oswestry's ancient hillfort.

A "no bikes" sign has been put up at the entrance to the hillfort to discourage cyclists from riding on the scheduled earthwork.

And other visitors to the popular hillfort now have a warmer welcome thanks to local residents.

Volunteers from the newly formed group, the Oswestry Heritage Gateway, have helped English Heritage - the guardians of the hillfort - to make-over the entrance sign for the 3,000-year-old landmark.

Representatives from English Heritage met volunteers to discuss forthcoming work

at the site and see the new graphic panel which has recently been installed.

The panel shows updated information on the hillfort's history and ecological interest.

Volunteer Neil Phillips said: "We are putting together a programme of tasks to the end of the year which will keep our growing team of volunteers very busy."

"Activities include litter picking, fencing inspection, signage audits, visitor counts, and other landscape maintenance."

"We will also be continuing with vegetation control around the ponds following a major session of clearance involving volunteers earlier this year." He said that working with volunteers at Old Oswestry

has helped English Heritage to develop a new model for caring for historic sites, with some tasks being remotely organised and supervised by Oswestry Heritage Gateway coordinators. "Work is undertaken in close liaison with English Heritage's regional team in compliance with environmental and health and safety requirements," Mr Phillips said. English Heritage's Helen Allen said: "It has been a truly inspiring experience working with the Oswestry Heritage Gateway team. It is amazing how a group of local people has evolved into a passionate community initiative which really is helping our organisation to protect this important historic site."

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Firm gives out warning on profits

AGRICULTURAL group Wynnstay has warned investors that its profits are set to tumble when it delivers results for the first half of the year, after struggles in its pet supply arm.

The Shrewsbury and Llanfyllin-raud company said its overall strong performance had been dragged backwards by pet products retailer Just For Pets as it delivered a trading update for the six months to April 30.

Excluding the pet food brand, the company is to announce strong results for the first half of the year when it delivers half-year results on June 21.

But Just For Pets has underperformed, making a loss during the first half of the year, leading the company as a whole to prepare for a fall in profits.

With the pet supplies retailer, which includes stores in Wellington and Ketley, being a smaller part of the business, the company said it was now "reviewing its options" for the division.

Wynnstay is to announce restructuring plans for Just For Pets in the second half of the year.

The seed and feed company saw profits fall 12 per cent to £7.29 million in the last full financial year.

The update also saw the company deliver a more positive assessment of the farming industry, adding that trading conditions for farmers have improved slightly during the period.

Writing classes will take place

LLANFYLLIN-BASED organisation Arts Connection is leading a number of free bite sized creative writing classes in mid June.

The week long event, which links in to Adult Learning Week, will be focusing on four different themes – Writing Short Stories, Writing Stories for Children, Writing Outdoor Biographies and Writing Poetry.

The workshops will be led by highly experienced and prize winning writer Fiona Collins and will be set in the stunning landscapes of Lake Vyrnwy and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant Waterfall as well as indoor sessions at Llanfyllin Youth and Community Centre.

Participants can attend either one event or all.

The sessions are free and are open to all ages with a particular emphasis on adults.

Annual report flags up pressures on hospitals

Report by James Pugh

THE failure to meet A&E waiting time targets was just one of many issues faced by Shropshire's two main hospitals over the last 12 months, a report has found.

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust annual report gives an insight into the challenges experienced by the hospitals between March 2016 and March this year.

About 80 per cent of A&E patients were admitted or discharged within four hours at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Telford's Princess Royal. Hospitals are expected to see 95 per cent of patients within four hours of their A&E attendance.

The report also reveals 17 patients waited more than 12 hours on trolleys in the A&E departments, and 561 last minute elective operations had to be cancelled for non-clinical reasons. Meanwhile, ambulance staff were delayed for more than 30 minutes on 8,045 occasions at the hospitals, and for more than one hour on 1,575 occasions. But the report does highlight the trust hit cancer waiting times targets.

Simon Wright, chief executive of the trust, said: "We have made great progress to improve our culture and our staff feel more able to report problems when they see them so that we can make improvements."

"In terms of our clinical outcomes over the past 12 months, we have performed well in key areas such as hitting all of our cancer waiting time targets and reducing the number of infections such as Clostridium difficile."

"However, it has been a challenging year and our patients have experienced growing waits for treatment. We regret this and have proposed to our communities ways we can fix this situation. This will require a lot of investment into the county and a great deal of change and reconfiguration of our services."

"Community leaders and stakeholders are continuing to consider these proposals, but while they think and reflect the pressures on our hospitals, staff and patients grow. The fragility of A&E and some of our other services came to the fore during the year but these issues are not new and, in fact, have been causing concern for the best part of a decade in some cases."

● Special Report – See Page 16

Carpet company hit by huge fire



Vehicles were badly damaged at the fire in Welshpool on Thursday night last week



The blaze at its height. Photo by Laura Davies.



Investigations are carried out into the blaze

THOUSANDS of pounds of carpets were destroyed in a suspected arson attack on a warehouse.

It left staff at Canalside Carpets in Welshpool rushing to make alternative arrangements in order to ensure deliveries could still be made.

The fire tore through the warehouse along with an adjoining building and carpentry business.

Fire investigators were on site on Friday trying to establish the cause of the blaze.

A 48-year-old man was arrested in connection with the blaze, which

broke out at about 11.45pm on Thursday.

Five crews from Welshpool, Montgomery, Llanfair Caereinion and Oswestry were called to tackle the blaze which took until 4.30am on Friday to get under control.

Emergency services confirmed nobody was hurt in the fire. Jacqui Gough, who works for the firm, said she was "struggling to get her head around" how it happened.

She said: "What's happened is just unbelievable. We're a local, home-grown business, and this has

cost us thousands, it's too early to say how much but certainly thousands."

Ms Gough said the fire destroyed two employees' vehicles – a car, van, stock, machinery and materials including timber, plastic and vinyl.

She added: "To begin with we did predict the worst because we have had stock destroyed but because of us having such a good relationship with our supplier, we're able to get our stock directly from them, which means it's business as usual thank goodness."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Young mechanic died in car crash

A YOUNG mechanic was killed in an early hours car crash on the outskirts of Gobowen, an inquest at Shrewsbury has heard.

Shropshire's assistant coroner Heath Westerman, heard that Jodie Michael Jordan, of Penycu, near Wrexham, had died on May 6.

Mr Westerman was told that the 23-year-old was pronounced dead at the scene of the car crash.

The tragedy happened on the B5009 road at Henlle Lane, Gobowen, the hearing was told.

The hearing was adjourned by the assistant coroner.

The full inquest will take place at Shirehall in Shrewsbury on September 5.

The collision closed the road for more than 12 hours and police, fire and ambulance attended the scene.

Pub wants to alter its opening times

A TOWN centre pub has applied to stay open until late on all public holidays.

The George in Bailey Street, Oswestry, has applied for a change to both its alcohol and music licences.

Although it wants to cut the time its open back from 3am until 2am on New Year's Eve, the premise licence holder – Craft Union Pub Company – also wants to add a 2am finish on St Patrick's Day, St David's Day, St George's Day, St Andrew's Day, Valentine's Day, Burns night, Bonfire night, Bank Holiday weekends, Easter and Christmas, as well as any other public holidays declared by the state.

Licensing bosses will discuss the application on Monday.

Drivers hurt in junction collision

TWO drivers were injured in a crash on the A483 just outside Oswestry.

One of the two cars involved rolled after the collision at the Llyncllys crossroads just before noon on Tuesday.

The West Midlands Ambulance Service said one of the drivers, a man in his 80s, suffered a hand injury and was taken by ambulance to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. A second man, in his 60s, suffered back pain. He was treated by paramedics at the scene and did not need hospital treatment.

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Ex-BNP leader Nick Griffin

Immigration ban for ex-BNP leader

THE former leader of the British National Party has been barred from Hungary, where he wanted to set up home.

Nick Griffin, 58, of Llanerfyl near Welshpool, was declared persona non grata by the Hungarian Government and issued with entry and residency bans. The announcement came two days after Budapest expelled James Dowson, another

prominent British far-right activist with links to Mr Griffin.

Earlier this year Mr Griffin, who headed the BNP from 1999 to 2014, said he planned to move to Hungary as a "refugee" from western Europe, praising the hardline policies of populist Prime Minister Viktor Orban against asylum-seekers.

He said: "I hope that Hungary, the Hungarian government, the

Hungarian people, will welcome people who are genuine refugees from western Europe but keep out the liberals who have brought western Europe to this state in the first place."

He said he was in the process of appealing.

Former BNP member Mr Dowson had been operating a branch of the anti-immigration group Knights

Templar International in the Hungarian capital since 2015.

The 52-year-old was expelled because authorities considered him a "national security threat", according to security sources cited in the Hungarian weekly newspaper Magyar Narancs. He also set up a news agency in Budapest that he said aimed to help Donald Trump win the US election last year.

Businessman breached order by contacting wife

Report by Deborah Hardiman

A BUSINESSMAN who breached a court order preventing him from contacting his estranged wife has appeared before magistrates.

Darren Brookshaw, 51, of Montgomery, faced charges of possessing a shotgun without a certificate and breaching a non-molestation order.

Under the conditions of the order he is only allowed to contact his wife through her solicitor regarding the shooting business they ran together until recently. He was arrested after he sent an email to Mrs Brookshaw's lawyer and social media messages to his wife between May 9 and 12 commenting on their relationship. When the police carried out a search of his home, in Priest Weston, Montgomery, on May 19 they found the side by side shotgun in the loft.

Drivers face delays on A5

MOTORISTS are facing disruption because of roadworks – expected to last for more than a month – on one of the region's busiest roads.

Drivers face lengthy diversions as improvement work is carried out until July 7 on the A5. Work is taking place between the Mile End roundabout at Oswestry and the Churncote roundabout near Shrewsbury.

The road will be closed between 8pm and 6am, when the works will be undertaken by Highways England. It is part of a pavement resurfacing scheme.

Meanwhile, motorists on the road suffered disruption on Monday after a car crash.

Emergency services were called out to reports that a vehicle had rolled over at the Shotatton Crossroads near Oswestry at about 11am.

The fire service say nobody was trapped inside the vehicle.

Brookshaw's gun licence had previously expired and he told officers the weapon had belonged to his late father.

Abigail Hall, prosecuting, said: "On May 4 there were a number of reports to the police that her husband was missing and that he wished to harm himself.

"On May 5 she was granted a non-molestation order to prevent him from contacting her." Miss Hall said due to the nature of the comments officers carried out safe and well checks for the defendant at a hospital, his home and in the Chester area on May 8.

He was eventually seen on the A483 in Chirk near Oswestry where he was arrested.

Emma Lineton, mitigating, said: "In hindsight he can appreciate that it was inappropriate to behave like that and his arrest and detention over the weekend has brought home the seriousness of the situation to him."

For each offence he was given a two-year conditional discharge to run concurrently.

He must also pay costs of £185 and a victim surcharge of £20. Telford magistrates also ordered the forfeiture and destruction of the shotgun at the hearing last week.

Trust's wild idea for islands



The islands along the Oswestry bypass have been criticised for being unkempt

THEY have been criticised for being unkempt and overgrown, putting motorists off from visiting the area.

A community group even threatened to tidy up the traffic islands along the Oswestry bypass and bill highways bosses for the work.

Now Shropshire Wildlife Trust wants to see the roundabouts and verges along the A5/A483 turned into mini-meadows of wildflowers.

It says it would make the town look vibrant and welcoming.

Sarah Gibson from the trust said: "Colourful and beautiful, every flower would also be useful to our bees and other insects. Some fabulous roundabouts have been cre-

ated around the country – let's get Oswestry showing the rest of Shropshire how to make the most of these green spaces."

She said that colourful cornfield annuals would look spectacular but have to be sown every year.

"The other idea is to create a permanent meadow, which once established are easier and cheaper to maintain and even better for wildlife," she added.

"Creating wildflower meadows at the entrance to Oswestry would also highlight the area's significance as a hotspot for flora in the county – the Oswestry hills are renowned for their diversity, with seven nature reserves in the Oswestry hills, to the west of the town."



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Improvement sees 'licence breach' lifted from hospital

Report by Naomi Penrose

WAITING times at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have improved – bringing an official end to regulatory intervention in its day-to-day affairs, it has been revealed.

The hospital was found in "breach of licence" in January 2016 by NHS Improvement, at the time known as Monitor.

It followed an official investigation that identified concern with the hospital's performance on waiting time targets, known as Referral To Treatment (RTT) targets, as well as wider issues about the culture and governance.

Charity is looking for new drivers

THE Cae Post charity, based in Trevern near Welshpool, is looking for environmentally-focused people to join its team as HGV drivers, and they don't even need to have a lorry driving licence.

As a social enterprise with a 30-year history of working to increase recycling across Powys and North Shropshire, Cae Post is looking to recruit up to two new team members over the next 12 months.

These new jobs come only two months after Cae Post had to make 17 people redundant when its kerbside recycling and sorting contract with Powys County Council came to an end.

Speaking about the new jobs, Sue Packer, general manager at Cae Post said: "Our drivers are absolutely key to the services we deliver. We are looking for passionate people who want an opportunity to do their bit to help the environment."

The roles involve visiting Cae Post's customers and bringing materials back to Trevern where it is sorted and recycled. The charity is willing to hear from anyone interested in the jobs, even if they don't currently have a HGV licence.

Sue Packer added: "Our mission is to provide meaningful work and job opportunities, so we are willing to help people train to gain their HGV licence. To us, a commitment to the environment and to Cae Post are the most important requirements for the job."

Contact Cae Post on (01938) 570426.

On the back of the decision, the regulatory body has taken a keen interest in the hospital's actions to address the issues.

But it has been satisfied with the hospital's progress and has now removed the breach of licence, having acknowledged the steps taken to improve waiting times and the work done to address cultural concerns.

Mark Brandreth, chief executive, said: "We are delighted by this news, which gives reassurance to our patients that this is a hospital delivering the highest standards of care."

"First and foremost, this announcement reflects the hard work of our staff over the last year or so, and I want to thank them for that. I also want to thank our patients for their continuing support for the hospital. We recognised that there was much to do to address the speed with which patients were able to access our services for routine care, but we are now within a whisker of delivering the national target."

"We are confident that we will be hitting that target by autumn this year, and in a way that means we can sustain it going forward. At a time when the NHS nationally is struggling to deliver on this key measure, that is something of which we should be very proud."

The trust's RTT performance as of the end of April was 91.2 per cent against the national target which states that 92 per cent of patients should be seen and treated within 18 weeks of referral.

Meanwhile, the trust has also engaged in a wide-ranging programme to improve the culture of the organisation. This work has been recognised with a place on the shortlist for the prestigious national Patient Safety Awards in the Changing Culture category.

Frank Collins, trust chairman, added: "We are delighted that NHS Improvement has recognised the work that has gone on, and have seen fit to remove our breach of licence. However, we will not be complacent. We are pleased with what we have achieved but we know there is still more to do."

● Hero – See Page 30

Chance to learn essential skills



Community responder Effie Cadwallader will be ready to show how to save a life

OSWESTRY Cambrian Rotary Club has a few places left for members of the public to attend its British Heart Foundation "Heartstart" community first aid session.

The session is being run by the West Midlands Ambulance Service's volunteer community responders in Oswestry.

The course will be run on Saturday at the Wynnstay Hotel in Church Street in Oswestry at 9.45am sharp.

There is no charge but attendees are asked to make a donation on the day with all the proceeds going to the Oswestry community responders to enable them to continue their voluntary work in the community.

Mike Lade from the rotary club said those attending would be given essential advice.

He said: "In a few hours they will know exactly what to do if the family member, a child, a grandchild or a person in the street has a heart attack, suddenly starts choking or other sudden emergency and we have added a session on how to use a defibrillator that can be found in any of the boxes around the town supplied for public use."

"More details are available from our website at www.oswestrycambrianrc.co.uk.

"Space will be limited so people are asked to reserve their place by contacting (01691) 650854 or emailing oswestrycambrianrc@btinternet.com."

Oswestry Cambrian Rotary meets for a drink or a coffee informally at The Wynnstay Hotel on Thursday evenings at 7pm for 7.30pm.



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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

It's not known for colleagues to break out into spontaneous applause when someone loses their job - it's just not the done thing.

Inside we might be turning cartwheels of joy but outwardly we display a façade of concern and disbelief that a fellow worker has been shown the door. But reports reach me of rapturous applause when news broke of the sacking of Katie Hopkins by LBC this week.

Bosses at the London-based national talk and phone-in radio station decided that enough was enough and sacked the vile Ms Hopkins after she took to Twitter to call for a "final solution" to Islamic terrorism - claimed to be a reference to the extermination of Jewish people by Hitler.

LBC top brass bowed to public pressure after being bombarded by complaints and an investigation by the police.

The outspoken and self-styled celebrity emerged on reality TV programmes I'm A Celebrity ... Get Me Out Of Here! and Celebrity Big Brother, as well as fronting her own programmes on TLC entitled If Katie Hopkins Ruled the World and My Fat Story.

The 42-year-old is known for being an outspoken commentator on far-ranging topics from terrorism and Islam, to children's names and obesity but finally crossed the line for me when describing herself as a journalist when penning a column by the Daily Mail. As a journalist of over 45 years I find it offensive that this loud-mouthed woman could ever be bestowed with the honour of being a member of the journalism fraternity.

Let's hope the Daily Mail now does the decent thing too and we see the end of Ms Hopkins's written garbage too. I for one will not buy another copy of The Mail while she is on the payroll.

With the risk of sounding like an angry old man I suffered several minutes of my pet hate this week - supermarket queuing, and being stuck behind the dithering woman from hell.

With only three items to pay for the till with only one customer seemed the right choice to make, but what a mistake it turned out to be. Realising she had the wrong bottle of wine and disappearing to find a replacement was just the beginning.

Then there was the insistence in packing everything neatly away before realising her purse was at the bottom of the pile of bags. Minutes of searching ensued before a credit card was found and the bill finally paid. It was only then that the customer remembered she had vouchers tucked away in a purse and insisted the, by now hugely embarrassed, cashier scan all the folded pieces of paper and redo her bill. In all that time not a glance or apology to the growing and frustrated queue behind her.



Lembit Opik held the Montgomeryshire seat for the Liberal Democrats in 2001



Lembit Opik, pictured with then girlfriend Sian Lloyd, won Montgomeryshire again in 2005



Conservative Glyn Davies took the seat in 2010 and retained it in 2015

Time for a change or does seat remain blue again?

Welshpool voters will be deciding on their next MP next week, reports NAOMI PENROSE

THE Mid Wales seat of Montgomeryshire was once a safe haven for Liberal Democrats.

That all ended in 2010 when the Conservatives took hold and the seat remained in Tory hands in the 2015 General Election.

But voters, including those in Welshpool, will be deciding next week whether to allow the Conservatives to continue to dominate the seat - or whether it is time for a change.

Glyn Davies is hoping to once again retain the Montgomeryshire seat for the Conservatives, and further increase his majority.

Mr Davies ousted Liberal Democrat Lembit Opik back in 2010 and has held onto the seat since. In the 2015 election, Mr Davies became the first Tory to retain the Montgomeryshire seat, winning with an increased majority.

He secured 15,204 votes, up from 13,976 in 2010.

With concerns over proposed boundary changes, Mr Davies had said he would not stand for election if his seat was broken up, but this time plans to fight as his seat will not be affected by proposed boundary changes for this year's poll, with it being a snap election.

And the odds are looking good for him to once again retain his seat, with Paddy Power putting his chances at 1/9.

The odds for the Liberal Democrats' election bid, being led by Jane Dodds, are placed at 4/1.

The other parties don't look set to rock the boat, according to the bookies who put the Greens at 80/1, and Labour and Plaid Cymru, both at 66/1.



Welshpool had been a happy hunting ground for the Liberal Democrats

The big issues Montgomeryshire faces include much of what's been at the forefront of residents' minds for a number of years now including cross-border health services.

Many of the area's constituents rely heavily on health services across the English border in Shropshire.

There are concerns about the future of health services in Shropshire and Mid Wales is waiting to find out whether Shropshire will retain its A&E.

Residents and politicians are also waiting to find out whether the Secretary of State will decide to reopen a public inquiry to build wind farms at Llanbrynmair and Carnedd Wen, which had been thrown out by the government in 2015.

Last year 53.7 per cent of Powys voters voted to leave the EU. Voters will be

eager to discover how Brexit will affect them, particularly as agriculture is one of Montgomeryshire's biggest industries.

And so what about the candidates?

Glyn Davies has been the MP for Montgomeryshire since 2010 and says it has been a wonderful privilege.

He has been involved in farming all his life and at the age of 50 he attended Aberystwyth University where he gained a Diploma in International Law and Politics.

He was a district council chairman and a member of the Welsh Assembly.

He said: "The constituency is my home, always has been and always will be. My family roots are buried deep in the hills of Montgomeryshire, it has driven my love for the countryside and underpins my determination to protect

it from insensitive developments such as windfarms and pylons."

Jane Dodds is the Liberal Democrat hopeful.

A Welsh speaker, having been born and raised in Wrexham, she studied at Cardiff University.

She then trained to be a social worker in child protection and has continued to work in that area for the last 20 years.

She has worked in local authorities and has also headed up the Children's Section at the Refugee Council, supporting children from war-torn countries who arrive in the United Kingdom on their own without family.

She has been a local councillor, with a Cabinet portfolio on affordable housing, and is a trustee of a Family Centre in Welshpool. She lives in Welshpool with her husband Patrick.

Iwan Wyn Jones is Labour's candidate.

He is from Caernarfon but has just completed his studies at Aberystwyth University. He said: "I look forward to demonstrating that the Labour Party is a resurgent party with policies to repair the damage that the Tories have been doing to our country."

Aled Morgan is Plaid Cymru's candidate. Mr Morgan grew up in Dolanog and now lives in Llangafan.

He is a fluent Welsh speaker. A former National Chair of Plaid Cymru Youth, he studied for an undergraduate and postgraduate degree in politics at Aberystwyth University. He's currently a research student in politics at Cardiff University.

Richard Chaloner is the Green Party hopeful. He grew up in the North Wales border region, and has worked as a further education lecturer, author of textbooks in health and social care and as a senior examiner. After a period in London, Richard moved to rural North Montgomeryshire in the mid 1990s. His children attended local schools, where he acted as a governor.

● Voters - See Page 18

PETER RHODES



MOBILE etiquette. At a party, the host encouraged his guests to mingle and introduce themselves to each other. A reader reports that while most complied by smiling, hand-shaking and chatting, one woman switched her smartphone to movie mode and, holding it in front of her, videoed everyone she met. Nobody knows where that footage may end up and it just seems rude. So what do you do? Turn away? Make a scene? Or are my reader and I just a pair of technophobe fogeys - technofogeys, if you prefer.

TECHNOFOGEY. I'd like to think I invented the word. Sadly, Google has 6,000 references to it. Some days it seems the chief purpose of the internet is to prove there's nothing new.

A READER wants a ban on the term 'lone wolf' to describe a solo terrorist. He says the wolf is a noble creature and the word glorifies the terrorist while denigrating the wolf. Wanted: a new term. Lone rat? Lone weasel? Lone git?

ONE irritant we cannot control is what new owners do to our much-loved old houses. In Scotland I made a sentimental journey to our old holiday home on the shores of Loch Long. My father built it in his successful days as a builder and was forced to sell it five years later when the money ran out. Almost half the bungalow is glass and we enjoyed vast, wide views across the loch to the mountains beyond. The current owners have barricaded themselves behind 30 years' growth of gloomy, impenetrable conifers. The house cannot be seen from the loch, nor the loch from the house. Bizarre.

ON the foreshore, 40 years slipped away. I could almost see the Old Man steaming with frustration in a Scotch mist as we waded chest-deep in the sea loch to recover his wretched, broken-down boat and haul it on to its trailer. He then attempted to drag the trailer up the shingle beach using his powerful American coupe and 40 yards of rope. The 5.9 litre engine screamed, the wheels spun, pebbles flew like shrapnel and the rope, mercifully, snapped. The next day a local bloke with an old Land Rover did the job in five minutes. As any engineer will tell you, power is not the same as torque.

WHILE all the political parties are sparring over the winter-fuel payment, no-one has mentioned the utterly pointless Christmas Bonus which dates back to 1972.

Paid every year to pensioners and others on long-term benefit, it is a measly £10. Scrapping it would free up millions of pounds and I doubt if a single recipient would even notice. So why is the Christmas Bonus still with us? Simple. No politician wants to be called Scrooge.

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UK foreign aid bill not affordable

THE foreign aid budget for this year is around £13.4 billion, a large rise.

This is around £36.7 million per day that is leaving our country destined for who knows where.

At the new figure of £36.7 million per day for foreign aid payments with a population of around 60 million this means every man, woman and child in this country is in effect paying £219 per annum whether you like it or not.

Remember how much the terrorists and North Korea have benefited.

Filthy rich Bill Gates tells PM May not to cut this project because people are dying.

Perhaps people should realise that people are dying in this country as well because of under-funding of inefficient hospitals, cuts to the social care budget etc.

We can no longer afford the luxury of borrowing money to give away.

Even North Korea has had millions. On another subject raw sewage is being poured directly into the River Thames because the Victorian sewers can no longer cope with the waste due to the massive rise in population of London. Massive immigration or what?

How many more areas in the country are going to experience these problems with

massive housing numbers being built? A recipe for disaster and a breeding ground for diseases that were around in the 1800s.

We need to look at what is happening in this country and take stock of the future situations that may arise.

Finally, the honours system needs to be looked at. It would seem Kelloggs have been given more to distribute in their cornflake packets. An OBE for an ex pop star, whilst the ordinary people who deserve them are ignored. What a rubbish system this has become.

DAVE BARNETT
Arleston

Work with BT to bring fibre broadband to your community

AT BT, we're looking to hear from communities in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin that would like to work with us to bring fibre broadband to their area.

In recent years, a huge amount of work has taken place across the county with nearly 79 per cent of homes and businesses in Shropshire – and more than 93 per cent in Telford & Wrekin – now able to get super-fast download speeds.

But we also know there's still work to do in some areas and that there are communities, which don't yet have faster fibre broadband and are not currently included in any roll-out plans for this exciting technology.

We know speed is important. It helps you do things much faster and is a major boost for everyday things many of us take for granted – like listening to music online, catching up on TV box sets, working from home or online learning and education.

We're having great success with a new initiative – called a Community Fibre Partnership (CFP) – specifically intended to help communities not yet involved in any roll-out plans. Across the UK, more than 200 CFP projects have so far been agreed with local communities, of which more than 100 have already been completed.

A Community Fibre Partnership involves a local group working directly with us. There usually needs to be a joint funding arrangement, but we do everything we can to make it as affordable as possible. There's even a grant available of up to £20,000 if your local Ofsted registered school benefits from the work.

But, whatever your circumstances, it is well worth getting in touch and finding out more.

If you want to find out more on behalf of your community, visit www.community-fibre.bt.com. It takes just a few minutes but could be the start of an exciting journey to getting fibre broadband.

IAN BINKS
BT's Regional Manager
Shropshire and the West Midlands

The right thing to do is help nations

BRITAIN keeps its promises, particularly to those most in need. For 10 years, our commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of our national income on aid has been testament to that, and featured in all the major political party manifestos running up to the last General Election.

I am proud of the UK's history of providing life-saving aid to the world's most vulnerable children.

It is the right thing to do. Immunising children against preventable diseases makes us a bigger Britain. Supporting our doctors and nurses to lead the fight against Ebola makes us a bigger Britain.

Creating jobs and trade opportunities in developing countries makes us a bigger Britain.

This election must be an opportunity for all parties to reaffirm that commitment.

ALLAN BROWNE
Childs Ercall

Board spells out which class lined up for photo



It's always helpful in old pictures like these when somebody has written the details on a board, as here. So we know this is "Porthywen School, 1921, Grp 1, B43". Picture courtesy of Ray Farlow.

Brexit supporters need to vote blue in general election

EVERYONE who voted leave in the EU referendum must vote Conservative and back Mrs May on June 8.

This is no ordinary general election – in fact it's another referendum, because all the disillusioned young people, who don't remember what life was like before, will vote Lib Dem.

There will be a lot of tactical voting and I will be one of those tactical voters who will vote Tory.

My main reason for this, is that I want the UK to be a strong independent country, and open to do business with the rest of the world, instead of being stuck in a isolated EU. Voting Ukup will split the vote, and may allow the Lib Dems to drag us, shouting and screaming, back into the EUSSR.

Labour can't put all the blame on Corbyn if they lose out to the Lib Dems because their policy on the EU has been fudged for a long time. A lot of traditional Labour voters and MPs like Dennis Skinner and co would be strong leavers.

MARK NORWOOD
Whittington

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
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Kettley,
Telford, TF1 5HU

EMAIL

letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

So who is all this best for?

LORD Mandelson has reportedly urged the EU to "screw" Britain over Brexit.

Why are we allowed to put up with such behaviour from people who supposedly represent our country? How ironic that a politician who always thought he knew what was best for us was really only interested in what was best for himself, cosying up to the EU to protect his pension. If this had been the 18th century he would have been hung for treason.

BRENDAN ELLIS
Leominster

Latest outburst from MacKenzie is sad and arrogant

POOR sad and arrogant Kelvin MacKenzie, he's been at it again.

Insulting Liverpool with disregard of having any recourse to rational discourse and debate.

He may have all the money in the world, but his poor communication skills often colours his speech into confusing results.

This time it was his racial overtones towards England midfielder, Ross Barkley – referring to him being as "dumb as a gorilla at the zoo" and the "lack of reflection in his eyes, which makes me certain, not only are the lights not on, there is definitely nobody at home".

MacKenzie has got something right though.

Gorillas kept in zoos will, of course, display, a blank involuntary response to man-made habitat.

After all, they shouldn't be there in the first place.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tourism leader in visit to centre

THE director from North Wales Tourism has visited a tourist attraction near Oswestry to look at cross border co-operation.

Jim Jones visited the British Ironwork Centre at Aston.

The centre's chairman, Clive Knowles said: "Jim is a knight in shining armour when it comes to promoting North Wales and all its wonderful attractions and coastline."

"We are positioned in the most spectacular place, right on the doorstep of north and mid Wales which means we have a responsibility to ensure the visitors who are passing through are given the best information and advice on where to visit, either on the way into Wales or on the way back into England."

"North Wales has been named by Lonely Planet as one of the Top Places In The World To Visit In 2017 and we are so lucky to be sat at the gateway to this beautiful gem. We have a tourist information point, open seven days a week, which not only has information on Shropshire but also Wales."

Spiritual group set to meet up again

MEMBERS of Oswestry Spiritual Centre will meet up again this evening (Thursday).

The centre meets for its regular session at the Cambrian Room in the Memorial Hall in Oswestry.

The centre meets up from 7.30pm to 9pm and doors open at 7pm. The cost is £3.50. Val Laundry from the group said: "We welcome Trinity-Rose Williams as our guest medium for the night. Free taster spiritual/reiki healing sessions available after the demonstration. We look forward to seeing Trinity-Rose bring our loved ones and friends to us to prove that life continues but only in another dimension."

For more information contact 07891084071 or just go along and enjoy the evening with members.

Knife Angel could have home on town outskirts

Report by Sue Austin

A SCULPTURE, crafted from tens of thousands of knives, could have a permanent home near Oswestry.

The Knife Angel could be set on a site at the edge of the A5, according to the chairman of the centre that has created it.

A campaign for the sculpture to sit on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square has been launched by the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry, where it was created.

But centre chairman, Clive Knowles, says he would like to see its permanent home close to the centre.

He said he wants to apply for planning permission for a permanent home for the work of art. The Knife Angel is the culmination of the centre's Save a Life, Surrender Your Knife campaign to help get knives and other bladed weapons off the streets.

Police forces around the country have donated knives confiscated by officers and knife banks have been provided by the British Ironwork Centre in towns and cities in the UK as part of an amnesty.

The sculpture is being seen as a national monument against knife crime. Several mothers of victims of knife crime and other family members have engraved tributes on individual knives. Before an application for the Knife Angel to feature in Trafalgar Square can be made the sculpture has to be weighed. Mr Knowles said that that is expected to be done next week, when it is craned out of the studio that has been its home while it has been created.

He said that the BBC's One Show would be on site to film the Knife Angel being lifted from the studio. Once it is weighed, an application will be made to have the Knife Angel installed on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square.

College laying on plenty of fun for all



Bekki Fardoe, college business admin apprentice, and Chloe Edwards, the college's schools liaison and marketing coordinator, help promote the college's annual family fun day

OSWESTRY'S North Shropshire College will be holding its annual family fun day soon.

The college will host the event on June 10.

As part of the fun day, a raffle will also be held, with prizes donated from staff members, members of the public and local businesses in Oswestry.

Tickets are available to buy from the Oswestry campus reception and will be available to buy throughout

the family fun day. All funds raised are going towards Severn Hospice, in memory of Geoff Farr, a former lecturer at the college, and Hope House Children's Hospice equally.

This will be the third year the family fun day has taken place alongside Shropshire FA's under 8s and under 10s football tournament.

Organisers say the day promises to be a fun packed day for all of the family.

Lucy Evans, marketing manager,

said: "Last year we had a great event, the tournament was fantastic and many people turned out for the family fun day."

"Families are welcome to come along with fold up chairs to watch the football, visit all the stalls, or have a go at our activities."

For more information about the college's family fun day event, to book a stall or to donate a raffle prize, email marketing@nsc.ac.uk or call (01691) 688000.

Grant joy for art group as £55k support announced

A DESIGN and art studio which helps people with mental health difficulties has been given a grant.

Designs in Mind, based in Oswestry, has won a grant of more than £55,000 from the Morgan Foundation, a charitable trust set up by Steve Morgan, founder and chairman of Redrow plc.

The grant will be used to pay for a studio manager, and will fund materials used by the members.

More than 50 adults living with severe and enduring mental health difficulties attend Designs in Mind where they learn a range of creative skills and techniques which are then used in public art commissions and retail products.

Kath Diggins, project manager, said that, with the organisation growing and becoming even more successful, the role of studio manager was vital to the continuous drive to widen the skills base within the group.

She said it would also maintain a consistent approach to excellence of quality and design, and build on the feeling of achievement, confidence and self-worth of all members.

"This funding will be an enormous boost to the realisation of our ambitious and exciting plans for the future development of Designs in Mind," she said.

"It will enrich and enhance the opportunities open to our members and help us see an increase in self-worth, an increase in the number of members who take on positions of responsibility, an increase in participation in opportunities external to Designs in Mind and an increase in members we support in to employment, volunteering or training."

The Morgan Foundation, provides funding for small to medium sized organisations in North Shropshire, North Wales, Merseyside and West Cheshire. The Morgan Foundation was created in 2001.

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Talented members of The Marches Vocal Harmony Group took part in the school's annual Summer Serenade concert



The Marches Brass Band appeared on stage during the concert

Top performers!

THE Marches School in Oswestry hosted its annual Summer Serenade Concert with a theme of 'A Night at the Movies'.

Over 55 students from school were involved from Years 7 to 13 along with more than 80 pupils from Whittington, Holy Trinity and Trefonen primary schools.

Students performed a variety of solos and ensembles which included Year 7 student Phoebe Shaw playing 'Skyfall' from James Bond, Year 9 student Taya Cranshaw-Scott singing 'I Dreamed a Dream' from Les Misérables and Year 9 student Immie Dean playing a piano medley of a variety of film music soundtracks.

Also on stage were Year 11 student Nicole

Potts playing 'Moonlight Sonata' from The Piano and The Marches Vocal Harmony Group led by drama teacher Natalie Wright performing a Disney Medley.

Harriet Craddock-Jones, music teacher at The Marches School said: "This term has been a very busy time for the music department. Thank you to all involved, I have never been prouder of the Marches students."



Year 9 student Taya Cranshaw-Scott performed at the Summer Serenade

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Thanks given to support of concert

WELSHPOOL Hospital League of Friends has thanked all those who ensured that its St David's Day concert at Powis Castle was a big success.

A total of £1,489 was taken on the night. The group's Sue Williams said: "A big thanks also to Barclays Bank for match funding of £750. We would like to thank all those who took part including Emma Morgan, Buttington Musical Theatre Company, Christine Evans and Lorna Tiffin, John Hughes 'The singing farmer', Eleri, One Crow Sorrow, Lyndsey Heeraman, Montgomeryshire Youth Woodwind group and Master of Ceremonies Geraint Peate. Thanks must also go to the subcommittee who organised the evening, Susan Usmar, Iris Tombs and Gail Roberts, Welshpool Printing Group for sponsoring the tickets and programmes and the National Trust for allowing the use of the venue."

Approval is given to chapel proposal

PLANS to convert a former chapel into a home have been approved by the local authority.

Powys County Council planning chiefs have given the green light to transforming the former Chapel Llanfihangel near Llanfyllin into a three-bedroom property.

In a design and access statement, Gwynfor Humphreys, on behalf of applicants Messrs L & D Harding, said the conversion would enable the preservation of one of the community's landmarks.

He said: "The building is redundant in religious terms. It has no potential agricultural use. It has no commercial potential, nor can it be utilised for rural work or affordable housing provision."

Payback scheme brings towpath improvements

Report by Sue Austin

A CANAL towpath is being transformed through people doing unpaid work in the community as part of rehabilitation sentences.

Walkers and cyclists will be able to enjoy the new surface along the Montgomery Canal after a successful partnership between the Canal & River Trust and Warwickshire and West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company.

They are carrying out improvements along the canal between Burgeddin Lock and Arddleen Bridge, resurfacing a 500-metre stretch of towpath with new hard stone.

Sarah Lalieu, Canal & River Trust enterprise manager, said: "We are delighted to be working again with Community Rehabilitation Company following last year's successful project to deliver improvements to the canal corridor for the benefit of local people and visitors."

"It offers participants the chance to learn valuable work skills and is a highly cost-effective way to improve the canal towpath for the benefit of the whole community who use the canal for walking and cycling."

David Cadmore, senior probation officer at Warwickshire and West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company, added: "We are pleased to have been invited to be a part of a project that will help to return the waterway to a thriving community resource allowing access for local people to enjoy the canal and countryside. In doing so, the participants of Community Payback will be able to offer something tangible back to residents."

Festival will have something for all



The football festival and fun day is being held in memory of Andrew Lloyd

A FOOTBALL festival held in memory of a young footballer is taking place for the fourth year this month.

The Andrew Lloyd Football Festival takes place at Forden near Welshpool on June 17, with the committee behind the event promising a fun day for the whole family.

The day, held in memory of the young Forden footballer who died in a car accident in 2013, will be held at his former club. A football tournament starts at 10am, followed by the family fun, kicking off at noon.

Now in its fourth year and going from strength to strength raising money for the local community, the event features extra attractions for the family fun day.

The attractions include the Exotic Zoo with Scott as seen on Blue Peter, SoccerholicsRus, bouncy castles, stalls, games and refreshments.

Organisers of the event are hoping to attract 32 adult five-a-side teams, at £10 entry per team.

Entry forms to the tournament are available from The Cock in Forden, The Flash Leisure Centre in Welshpool, and via Facebook.

Amnesty to allow licences to be sorted

UNLICENSED boarding establishments for cats and dogs, including those providing day care only, are being urged by Powys County Council to come forward and apply for a licence.

The council's trading standards service has become aware that there are a number of unlicensed animal boarding establishments operating in the county. The service has now granted an amnesty until the end of June so that unlicensed premises can apply. Anyone operating an animal boarding establishment without a licence could be fined up to £500 or face up to three months imprisonment.

Clive Jones, the council's professional lead for trading standards, said: "All dog and cat owners have the right to expect that boarding premises where they leave their beloved pets satisfy basic standards relating to their health, welfare and safety and that the licensee is a fit and proper person to hold such a licence. By using licensed establishments, dog and cat owners can be confident that the premises comply with strict licensing conditions and the proprietors strive to guarantee the highest standards of animal care."

Rotary club to give out a new award

AN award to recognise young people under the age of 25 for their outstanding work in the community or who have overcome difficulty has been announced.

Members of the Rotary Club of Welshpool have launched a Young Citizen Award.

The award will be presented at the Welshpool Town Council's award ceremony on Sunday.

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Funds available to repair memorials

COMMUNITIES are urged to apply for funding to preserve First World War memorials for future generations.

The Powys War Memorials Project has funding available to repair, restore or maintain memorials in the county. The maximum grant available for repair works for one memorial is £5,000 while up to £200 is available for memorial surroundings.

Any type of First World War memorial in the county is eligible for funding including stone obelisks, stained glass windows, benches, plaques, statues or halls. Powys County Councils say the application process for funding is quick and easy.

Sue Bolter, the council's head of regeneration and regulatory services, said: "The funding gives Powys a chance to remember and ensure that these memorials are protected and kept for future generations."

Other elements of the project include identifying, recording and mapping all the war memorials in Powys.

Free drink offer at fish and chip shop

THE Salop Fish Bar in Oswestry will be celebrating National Fish and Chip Day tomorrow (Friday) by giving away a free drink with every portion of fish and chips sold.

The shop has been serving fish and chips since 1976 and bosses are asking customers to come together to celebrate Britain's best-loved fast food by tucking in to a portion of sizzling fish and chips.

A shop spokesman said: "We all agree nothing can beat a portion of steaming fresh white fish fried in hot, crispy batter, served with a pile of lip-smacking chips."

"So celebrate British fish and chips and join in with National Fish & Chip Day by coming down to the Salop Fish Bar and enjoying a good old-fashioned Friday night fish supper."

Town centre pub on the market but not closing

Report by Naomi Penrose

A TOWN centre pub that is home to the Oswestry Conservative Club has been put up for sale.

The Oswestrian, in English Walls, was placed on the market following discussions with the committee, who said they felt member numbers were dropping to "alarmingly low levels".

Syd Hallam, who has managed the pub since February 2005, said members considered themselves at an age where they felt they were no longer able to run it.

But Mr Hallam is keen to stress there are no plans to close the pub.

He said: "My hope is that we can sell the pub in the next few months and it will continue as is."

"It's a fantastic pub that serves some fantastic food, and I believe it has a future. People have been coming in telling me they've heard the pub is closing down but that is certainly not the case."

"I intend on staying here until we find a new proprietor, whether that's six months or a year down the line."

"The pub will very much still be here, it just won't be the Conservative Club anymore."

"On my next birthday I will be 75, so I think it's time I started to take things a bit easier."

"We have members in their 80s and 90s. "Times change, there was a time when there were all sorts of different clubs in the area. There was the Labour Club, the Lib Dem Club, a boxing club and the Orthopaedic Club but, things change."

Mr Hallam said having been in the pub trade since 1972 he had noticed "things have changed massively".

The price of the pub has not been disclosed but Mr Hallam said he is happy to discuss the sale with interested parties. He can be contacted on (01691) 654326.



The Oswestrian, in English Walls, Oswestry, also the home of the Oswestry Conservative Club, is for sale

Market will give help to good causes

A CHARITY market is taking place tomorrow (Friday) to support local good causes.

The market, which will take place at the Bailey Head in Oswestry, aims to support local charities, community groups and clubs by enabling them to promote their services and recruit new volunteers.

This year the charity market takes place as part of national volunteers' week celebrations.

Volunteers across the UK are being recognised for the important contribution they make to local services and charities.

Organisations will be offering advice and guidance about their services and there will also be a variety of goods on sale from a number of charities including Alzheimer's Society, Energize and Carers Trust4a.

Alex Drury, Qube's volunteering officer, who has organised the charity market, said: "We're expecting a busy day, the event is always well attended. People are keen to come along and give their support and there's always the chance of a bargain to be had."

The market takes place from 9am to 2pm.

Properties are hit by power cut

SCORES of properties in Oswestry were left without power after a fault with an overhead line.

Scottish Power confirmed 70 customers had lost power from 2.45pm on Wednesday last week.

Paul Ferguson, a spokesman for the firm, said: "There was a fault on the overhead line, which our engineers were sent out to repair."

Power returned to most properties later in the afternoon. Mr Ferguson said: "We always plan to get the power back on as soon as possible. We apologise for any inconvenience."

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Proposal for 13 turbines is approved by planners

A RENEWABLE energy development comprising 13 wind turbines will be built on land next to an existing wind farm.

Planning officers at Powys County Council have granted full permission for the development known as Carno 3 on land adjacent to Carno Wind Farm.

The site will feature 13 wind turbines up to 126.5 metres to the blade tip and generate up to 39 megawatts of renewable power, and will be situated near to the existing wind farms of Carno 1 and Carno 2.

The Montgomeryshire branch of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW) had objected to the proposals.

Jill Kibble, on behalf of Montgomeryshire CPRW, said: "We did submit our objections, and predominately our biggest objection was that this isn't merely an extension of the current wind farm, in fact it's on new territory, meaning it will cover a much larger area, as well as reaching new heights as these turbines will be more than 120 metres in height, higher than the previous turbines."

"Although I'm unsurprised the application has now had full planning permission, I don't believe there's been a proposal for working the power out, perhaps plans will go in for a 1.32kv line for that, I'm not sure."

Mrs Kibble said a number of developments in Montgomeryshire were waiting on whether the Secretary of State will decide to reopen a public inquiry to build wind farms at Llanbrynmair and Carnedd Wen, which had been thrown out by the government in 2015.

The application for Carno 3 was initially made in 2010 for 18 wind turbines.

However, five were removed following consultation with the local community and the authorities.

No decision on baby cases until after vote

By Dominic Robertson

THERE will be no decision on whether to expand the scope of a review into the avoidable deaths of babies at Shropshire's two major hospitals until after the General Election.

The Department of Health has confirmed that a decision on whether to ask NHS Improvement to look at the quality of investigations into the avoidable deaths of other babies will be one for the Health Secretary and the new government, after the June 8 vote.

The review is considering investigations into nine avoidable deaths.

But solicitors have revealed that they have been contacted by a number of other parents who want their child's case to also be considered as part of the review ordered by Jeremy Hunt.

It was sparked by a letter to Mr Hunt from Shropshire parents Rhiannon Davies and Richard Stanton, and Kayleigh and Colin Griffiths, requesting an inquiry into maternity services at SATH.

Mr Hunt stopped short of ordering a full inquiry but said that nine cases of avoidable deaths at the trust should be reviewed to establish whether they had been investigated properly.

The trust was the subject of a damning report relating to the death of Ms Davies and Mr Stanton's daughter Kate, while an inquest ruled that the death of Mr and Mrs Griffiths's daughter, Pippa, could have been prevented.

Ms Davies said that NHS Improvement must investigate all cases of concern.

She added: "Without full independent scrutiny of what's gone on for the last decade nothing will change."

Students enjoying a taste of Canada



Year 9 students Harvey Logsdail, Connor Griffiths, Michal Trojanowski and Daniel Lee are on tour in Canada

MEMBERS of staff and 60 students from The Marches School in Oswestry are spending their half term break in Canada.

Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 have headed across the Atlantic to compete against Canadian clubs and schools in both football and rugby.

The students have been staying at one of the largest universities in

Toronto in Canada and have had opportunities to explore the city and its culture.

Alongside their sporting fixtures, students visited Niagara Falls, Canada's largest theme park Canada Wonderland and experienced a major league baseball game between the Toronto Blue Jays and Cincinnati Reds.

Gareth Jones, PE teacher at The Marches School, said: "The tour aims to develop a range of life skills to students including independence, responsibility and enhance their global awareness."

"Representing their school on a different continent is also a once in a lifetime experience which everyone involved is looking forward to."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tea-time treat for home residents

RESIDENTS at a care home enjoyed a tea-time treat as the recently crowned Miss Galaxy Wales stopped off to pay them a visit.

Lauren Parkinson, of Chirk, added a touch of glamour to afternoon tea at the Chirk Court Care Home when she called in to enjoy tea with residents and share stories about being crowned Miss Galaxy Wales.

Lauren, 20, who is also Miss Wrexham, is travelling to Orlando in Florida in July to represent Wales at an international pageant and she called in at Chirk Court as they marked 'National Dementia Awareness Week' with a range of events and activities.

She said: "I love visiting Chirk Court, it's amazing to chat with all the residents and it really put a smile on my face to see them enjoying themselves at the afternoon tea." Mandi Southern, activity coordinator at the care home, which is managed by Clwyd Alyn Housing Association said: "We always enjoy welcoming visitors and we really appreciate Lauren taking time to call in."

Walk will mark birth of council

A WALK will be held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of a parish council.

The walk, taking place to mark 50 years of Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council, will be held on July 16, setting off from the Pavilion at Gobowen playing fields at 10am.

The five-mile circular route, led by the recently formed Parish Paths Partnership, will return to the Pavilion at 1pm.

The route will be on roads and public footpaths.

Those intending to walk on the day are asked to pre-register with walk leader Mike McKenna by July 7, by calling or texting him on 07565 528821.

You are asked to provide your name and date of birth.



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Ellesmere Food and Drink Festival

17th & 18th June 2017

Ellesmere will be holding it's food and drink festival over the weekend of Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June 2017. This coincides with Fathers Day, enabling families to come together and enjoy the food, drink and events in and around the Ellesmere area.

The Festival which is held at the Market Hall and Town Hall is mostly undercover and is open from 10am until 4pm both days.

Free Entry



www.ellesmerefoodfestival.co.uk

Celebration has a wonderful history

Commercial feature

NEWTOWN Carnival has been for generations a huge part of community life in the Mid Wales town.

The first recorded carnival in Newtown was in 1887 and it marked the knighthood of town entrepreneur and businessman, Pryce Jones, who launched the world's first mail order company based at The Royal Welsh Warehouse.

For this occasion there were more than 5,000 spectators who paid 6d to enter the carnival field. The event included music, dance, acrobats and various shows.

The role of carnival queen is an integral part of the celebration and the first recorded carnival queen for Newtown was Edith Bayley in 1929. This year's Newtown Carnival will take place on June 10, with the annual parade of floats and events and activities also planned in the Town Hall Grounds.

The 130-year history of Newtown Carnival was recently celebrated by Newtown Local History Group and Newtown Carnival Trust.

Members of the community joined a party at the Monty Club to share their stories, photos and memorabilia of past carnivals.

Frank Moore was on hand to show a carnival photograph slide show and a number of past Carnival Queens put in an appearance along with this year's Queen, Billie-Jo Lloyd.

Members of the history group will be there to promote their 2018 calendar and new publication, the Newtonian, as well as past publications.

This will be an opportunity for people to share pictures and stories of the carnival over the past 130 years.



The carnival has a 130-year history in Newtown and is an annual highlight for many



Crowds pack the streets of Newtown to enjoy the carnival's colourful procession

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Special Report: Health

Chief officer will retire to start vineyard

THE chief operating officer at the trust which runs Shropshire's two main hospitals is to retire at the end of the year.

Debbie Kadum will step down from her post on December 17 after five years at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust and more than 36 years in the NHS. Upon retirement Debbie hopes to start and develop her own vineyard in Croatia, where she has family.



Debbie Kadum

Debbie joined SaTH, which runs the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford in 2012 from the Countess of Chester Hospital. Before that, she spent 20 years working at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Debbie, who has lived in Shropshire for more than 30 years and who is married with two children and a granddaughter, said: "Although I am excitedly looking forward to the next chapter of my life, I will be very sad to leave SaTH and the NHS."

Simon Wright, chief executive at SaTH, said: "Debbie has worked incredibly hard throughout her time at SaTH, earning the respect of all of her colleagues both inside and outside of the organisation."

CCG in 'strong position' claim

THE new NHS boss in charge of finances at the group that pays for Telford's health services said they are in a "good financial" position but there are "significant challenges" ahead.

Telford Clinical Commissioning Group's new finance director Jon Cooke said the group fully delivered the business rules they had to adhere to last year.

This included making a one per cent cumulative surplus of £2.4 million, holding contingency reserves for emergencies and keeping back another £2.279m that is used to help other trusts out in deficit.

He said: "We are showing a £5 million surplus in the plan for this financial year – but that is money we can't spend and is effectively lost to the NHS."

"We have a total allocation of about £243 million for this year – of that total only £3.761 million is spent on wages and running costs. That is less than two per cent of what we receive."

"Telford CCG is a really strong CCG and one of the very few that are in a strong financial position. There are significant challenges but working with all the other health trusts we have got a good base line to build on."

Eye clinics on move in shake-up

OUTPATIENT eye appointment clinics in Shropshire have moved location.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust has revealed that paediatric ophthalmology outpatient appointments have temporarily moved from Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to Telford's Princess Royal Hospital from this week.

Adult ophthalmology outpatient appointments and the urgent eye clinic for adults and paediatric patients will also move to the nearby Cophorne Building at RSH from June 26. The services are currently provided in clinic 10 at RSH.

The move forms part of the trust's plan to create a new eye department in the Cophorne Building which health bosses say will have modern facilities, new equipment and increased capacity.

Prasad Rao, consultant ophthalmologist and clinical director at SaTH, said the new eye department would be a "fantastic facility" for patients in Shropshire and Mid Wales.

Ambulance fails with V Fest contract bid

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service will not provide medical services at this year's V Festival after failing to win the contract.

The ambulance service has revealed that it bid to provide services at this year's event in Weston Park, on the Shropshire/Staffordshire border but was unsuccessful.

Details of baby death probed is outlined



Simon Wright

AN NHS watchdog has revealed a review into the avoidable deaths of babies at Shropshire's hospitals will focus on whether they were investigated properly.

NHS Improvement has outlined the terms of reference for the investigation into the deaths at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust, which was ordered by the Health Secretary.

The health watchdog says it will "review the quality of the investigations and subsequent reports into the identified cohort of incidents", and "identify whether the investigations ap-

propriately addressed the relevant concerns and issues from those incidents".

Simon Wright, chief executive at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: "We are co-operating fully with the review that the secretary of state has asked NHS England and NHS Improvement to perform to look into the robustness and effectiveness of our investigations into these tragic deaths."

Among the deaths being looked at is that of Ivy Morris from Oswestry who died aged only four months old.

Patients asked to give feedback to watchdog

A HEALTH watchdog is asking patients and carers to give their experiences of using NHS mental health services.

Healthwatch Shropshire is appealing for people to let them know what is working well and if there are any delays or gaps.

Jane Randall-Smith, chief officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said: "There has been particular concern over the provision of services for young people but we would like to know how mental health services are working for everyone, what is working well for you and are there any delays or gaps that still need to be filled."

"There is currently a great deal of focus on the future of hospital services in the county, but we want to make sure that we continue to

hear about people's experiences of other areas of health care.

"As well as mental health services, we always welcome comments about any publicly-funded health and social care services."

Anyone who has experienced the county's mental health services should contact Healthwatch Shropshire on 01743 237884.

People can also email enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk or visit www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk

Healthwatch Shropshire is the independent consumer champion for health and social care in Shropshire. It gathers the views and experiences of patients, service users, carers, and the general public about services including hospitals, GPs and mental health services.

Delight as hospitals achieve cancer waiting times targets

Report by Lisa O'Brien

THE NHS trust that runs Shropshire's two main hospitals hit all of its performance targets for cancer waiting times over the past year, according to new figures.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, which runs Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Telford's Princess Royal Hospital, hit all of the targets despite the great demand on its services.

Clinicians have hailed the figures as a "huge achievement" and said they hoped reassure people referred to the hospitals that they would receive prompt and effective care.

During 2016/17, 85.9 per cent of patients received their first treatment within 62 days of an urgent referral. The target is 85 per cent.

GPs referred more than 20,000 patients with a suspected cancer diagnosis to SaTH during 2016/17.

In total, 94.2 per cent of these patients were seen within the two-week wait standard – above the target of 93 per cent.

Treated

A total of 95 per cent of patients who required treatment for cancer following referral from a national screening programme were treated within the 90 per cent target.

The majority of patients who needed chemotherapy or radiotherapy as a second or subsequent treatment received their treatment within the 31-day decision to treat target.

Dr Sheena Khanduri, lead clinician for cancer services, said: "We really can't underestimate what a huge achievement this is."

"I hope it will reassure anyone referred to our hospitals with a suspected cancer diagnosis that they will receive prompt, effective, patient-centred care from staff who ensure our patients are at the heart of all they do."

Kathryn Poli, cancer performance manager at SaTH, said: "The cancer services team works closely with colleagues to ensure all patients have access to timely cancer care at every stage of their treatment."

"To have hit all the targets is a fantastic achievement and our staff are to be congratulated for making it happen."

"We will continue to work hard to maintain these standards while also striving to make further improvement in the future."

"The priority going forward is to continue hitting the target while also eradicating delays linked to capacity and reducing the number of patients treated after 104 days."

Dementia care conference hailed a success



Dr Suzy Thompson, consultant geriatrician, George Rook, chairman of the Patient Panel and Karen Breese, clinical nurse

HUNDREDS of people travelled from all over the Midlands to be part of the first Changing Dementia Care Conference.

The one-day conference took place at the Shropshire Education Conference Centre at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

The event included talks from doctors, academics and people living with dementia, as well as cinema workshops and awards.

Karen Breese, a clinical nurse who helped organise the day, said: "The conference is about changing dementia care and understanding the person who is living with dementia. It's all about treating people with respect."

"The delegates who attended the event are

health and social care professionals, hospital staff, care homes, care agencies, people living with dementia and people caring for them. We have a range of people, which makes it really good. It's all about sharing good practice. We've got some staff who go above and beyond who received an award."

"There was also a talk about all the good things going on in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Princess Royal Hospital and community hospitals, so people know what is available."

"One thing we do is the butterfly scheme, which is an opt-in scheme for people with memory impairment, whereby a butterfly is placed nearby the patient, usually on a wall

above their bed, to support those with memory impairment."

"This is the first conference we have done but we're hoping it will be an annual event, it's all part of dementia awareness."

George Rook, a dementia patient who spoke at the conference, said: "There was also a talk about audiology as hearing problems go along with dementia. It's really important that it's recognised and people get hearing aids if possible."

As part of Dementia Awareness Week, a team of nurses from Royal Shrewsbury Hospital raised more than £500 through a softball cricket game and a cake sale.

Chief executive makes a call for a full inspection

THE chief executive of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital has urged the Care Quality Commission to do a full inspection when it re-visits later this year.

The award-winning hospital was rated overall as "requires improvement" following an inspection in 2015.

Inspectors said that caring was good across the board and good in surgery overall.

But medical care, critical care and outpatients and diagnostics were all marked as requires improvement.

Members of the hospital's trust board were

told that the next inspection was expected later this year although the process was slightly different in that inspectors were likely only to re-visit those sections in which there had been concern.

Mark Brandreth, the hospital's chief executive, said he had some concerns over the new streamlined inspection process.

He said: "I find it strange they might inspect us without looking at our theatres, given our focus on surgery."

"Surgery must account for between 60-70 per cent of our work but they may not look

at it. At the moment our surgery is said to be good when I know that there are areas that are outstanding."

"Myself and the chairman will be lobbying to try to ensure that the visit sees the inspectors look at everything."

He said the hospital had been focusing on improving areas that had been labelled as requires improvement.

Hospital trust chairman Frank Collins said that surgery accounted for not only a large percentage of the work, but also the patients and the staff.

Meanwhile, consultant and director Steve White said he wants to see a shift away from national targets for the length of stay a patient has in hospital.

He said that the hospital performed well in the length of stay for patients having simple operations.

He said: "We do a lot of complex work here and while we may keep patients in for longer, we do not have a high re-admission figure."

"It is far better to keep patients until they are ready to go home than discharge them and see them re-admitted a few days later."



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Tories are on target for Oswestry Town FC legend Mickey Ryan, 83



Oswestry businesswoman Linda Clark is not sure yet which way she will vote



Gary Chase has his doubts over the Prime Minister's stance on Europe

Voters have their say



Vanessa Cadwallader is a lifelong Labour supporter



Oswestry businessman Yossi Glikman – Government should do more for town centres



Mike Rush, 68 – "Corbyn seems weak"



Geoffrey Broadhurst, 80 – "no complaints" about Tories



Kristian Baker – mind already made up

WITH the General Election looming, reporter MARK ANDREWS, was out in Oswestry and Welshpool gathering views.

Oswestry has seen its fair share of bloodshed over the centuries.

A strategic defensive point on the border between England and Wales, it became known as a "hot village" when it was burned to the ground by Welsh rebel forces, and in medieval times it constantly changed hands between the warring nations.

It is fair to say that in modern times, the town's politics have been somewhat more stable. It is the largest town in the North Shropshire constituency, which has been held by Tory Owen Paterson since 1997.

And with a thumping majority of 16,584 at the last General Election, it would be a major upset indeed if the vote resulted in anything other than a Tory victory.

Report by Mark Andrews

Certainly, it looks as if the Tories can count on the vote of Kristian Barker, who I met tinkering with his phone in the shade beneath a tree in Bailey Street.

"I have been following it, but I don't think I have heard anything that will change the way I vote," says the 40-year-old who works in the machine handling industry.

"I know how I'm going to go, it will be for the Conservatives, I feel their policies are better than the others, particularly after the mess last time Labour were in."

Mike Rush, taking a breather outside The George pub, says the character of the leader is important.

"The election has been called by Theresa May on this issue, and as far as I'm concerned, she has a strong personality," says the 68-year-old. And Jeremy Corbyn?

"I think he's weak. There seems to be a mixture of left and right in his party, and I don't

think they are all in agreement." Just across the road is The Fat Rabbit, a vegan restaurant run by 43-year-old Linda Clark.

Firmly on the Left, she says she was brought up as a Labour supporter, but does not know how she will vote, suggesting she might consider supporting the Greens.

"I think the environment is the most important issue, it affects everybody," she says. The mother-of-three says more consideration also needs to be given to young people. "Tuition fees are one of the worst things that ever happened."

Geoffrey Broadhurst, who is eyeing up the produce at Covent Garden Fruit Market in English Walls, says education is also important, as is the health service.

"I will vote Conservative, I think they are doing a good job, I have got no complaints," he says.

Over in Cross Street, a local proudly introduces us to "local legend" Mickey Ryan. Once a centre-forward for the former Oswestry Town

FC, he scored an incredible 58 goals in one season, a record which has unsurprisingly never been beaten.

As far as he's concerned, it should be a clear win for the Tories. "I'm voting Conservative, I think the Labour Party is in a bit of a traumatic state at the moment with that Corbyn."

Also well-known around the town is shopkeeper Yossi Glikman, who keeps the Upstairs Downstairs homeware shop in Leg Street. He is concerned about the decline in the fortunes of the town centre, and says the Government really does need to step in to help.

"We have seen a massive drop in footfall in Oswestry, and it has had a big impact on the town centre."

"I think the Government should have a budget to subsidise car parking in town centres," he says.

Voters in Welshpool have strong opinions too.

Tucked away along an alley behind the town hall, Loveday antiques is the kind of shop that

any town would be keen to have. Owner Vanessa Cadwallader is a lifelong Labour voter, and former party member, but she admits it is unlikely things will be going her way at the election.

"Unfortunately it looks like Madam May is going to get back in," she says with an air of irritated resignation.

She adds that she is considering a tactical vote for the Liberal Democrats in a seat which has traditionally swung between the Tories and the Liberals. The seat has been held by Tory Glyn Davies since he defeated flamboyant Lib Dem Lembit Opik seven years ago, and if the polls are anything to go by, he will probably secure another term.

Chatting to the staff in a jewellery shop in High Street is 59-year-old antique trader Gary Chase. He believes the Conservatives will lose the election. "I personally think Theresa May has opened up the possibility of the people who are against leaving Europe to all vote against her," he says.

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

19
Oswestry & Border Chronicle
Thursday, June 1, 2017

Contemporary and spacious home is in a village setting

Situated in the pretty rural hamlet of Dovaston, near Kinnerley, North Shropshire, "Wellfield" is a contemporary and spacious family house in a village setting with countryside views.

Including a large open plan living space of a kitchen, dining and sitting room with patio doors to the raised decked terrace, it is for sale through Balfours at £420,000.

A spokesman for the selling agent, Duncan Scobie, said: "This is a great family space with focal points including a well equipped kitchen and at the opposite end a wood burner."

A second log burner is to be found in the lounge, where a bay window ensures a light and airy room. Currently an additional reception room is used as a study, but could provide formal dining. An entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom and utility complete the ground floor. The first floor comprises of a master room with en-suite and an additional four bedrooms, one of which is currently used as an office.

Approached via a gravel driveway, it has a carport and garage, a garden to the front and a large garden, laid mainly to lawn to the rear.

Outside, the property is separated from the road by a hedgerow with a gravel driveway opening in front of the house, bordered with flowers and a raised shrub bed. A path gives access alongside the property to a decked patio and paving to the rear of the garage. The garden is mainly laid to lawn with established side borders. The owners rent an additional piece of garden, currently used as a vegetable patch, from the neighbouring farm.

The property is set back from a village road. Its gardens are set at a slightly lower level with open views across adjoining farmland in the direction of the Breidden Hills.

The house is located eight miles from Oswestry and 11 miles from Shrewsbury and lies in a quiet village location, overlooking farmland. Neighbouring Kinnerley and Knockin provide a superb range of local amenities, including primary school, post office, shop and cricket club.

KEY FEATURES

Four double bedrooms
Office/bedroom five
Spacious & contemporary
Great for a family
Pretty hamlet position

DOVASTON

£420,000



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Spacious property has seven bedrooms

OSWESTRY

£420,000

A superbly spacious executive detached residence, 15 Upperwell Close, Oswestry has seven bedrooms, three reception rooms and four bathrooms.

It is for sale through Town & Country at £420,000. Enjoying an enviable position within this most sought after location with superb views to the rear, its accommodation briefly comprises a porch, hallway, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen/dining room, study, utility room, seven bedrooms, two en-suite and two family bathrooms. To the outside there are gardens to the front and the rear with views. A detached double garage and double width driveway provides off-road parking. The property is situated in a sought after residential area of Oswestry, with close proximity to the town centre, with an abundance of shops and supermarkets.

Contact Town and Country on 01691 679631.



Four bedroom barn conversion offers real 'wow' factor

KYNASTON

£575,000

<<<

Packed with the "wow factor", Treginford Barn in the hamlet of Kynaston near Kinnerley is a recently completed four bedroom barn conversion within equidistance of some 10 miles to Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

It is for sale through Balfours at £575,000. Agent, Duncan Scobie, of Balfours said: "This is an exceptionally well designed conversion. While it dates back to the mid-1800s, its' recently completed conversion provides a magic mix of character and contemporary. That is maximised through original oak timbers quite literally highlighted through the magnificent expanses of glazing."

The wow factor is made the most of on the first floor with a magnificent gallery landing open to the glazed frontage.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



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Georgian country house has lawns and tennis court

A fully restored Georgian country house adjoining parkland and open countryside, Pen-y-Llan Hall on the edge of Oswestry is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £1,250,000.

It has a vestibule, entrance hall, inner hall, drawing room, study, morning room, dining room, conservatory, cloakroom/WC, sitting room, playroom, kitchen, utility

OSWESTRY

£1,250,000

room, pantry and cellars. It also has a master bedroom with dressing room and en-suite bathroom, four further bedrooms all en-suite, bedroom six, dressing room, two attic rooms, a bathroom, detached

former annexe with planning permission for a workshop, stores, kitchen, cloakroom/WC, garaging and domestic buildings.

There are also lawned gardens and a tennis court and woodland of around 2.8 acres.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.

Period house
is situated in a
superior location
in popular town

OSWESTRY
£179,950 >>>

A period semi-detached house, 30 Oak Drive in Oswestry, offers excellent potential and is situated in a superior location within walking distance of the town centre.

It is on the market through JJ Dell and Co with a guide price of £179,950.

The home has a reception hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, four bedrooms and a bathroom.

There is ample parking, front and rear gardens and a southern rear aspect.

The property occupies a convenient position within the town only a short walking distance from the town's shopping centre and convenient for the A5/A483 link road.

30 Oak Drive in Oswestry is a semi-detached 1930s house constructed of brick under a tiled roof.

Contact JJ Dell and Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Home is a highly
desirable detached
family property

MOELYGARTH NEAR WELSHPOOL
£299,950

Cartrefle, at Moelygarth, near Welshpool, comprises a highly desirable and interesting detached period family home, with further detached single storey annexe accommodation, garaging, outbuildings and generous landscaped gardens and grounds extending in all to just under half an acre.

It is for sale through Halls for £299,950.

The main house offers interesting and adaptable accommodation over two floors to include, kitchen, conservatory, dining hall, drawing room, study, two bedrooms and a family bathroom on the ground floor. On the first floor are two double bedrooms and a large loft storage area.

The annexe accommodation comprises, utility area, kitchen, sitting room, bathroom and bedroom, all on one floor. The two buildings are surrounded by the delightful gardens with walkways and lawned areas, decked area, low maintenance area, together with a wealth of plants, shrubs and ornamental trees. Outbuildings comprise a large garage/workshop,



Superb cottage
with balcony is
in location on
edge of forest

LLANGADFAN
£169,950 <<<

Bliss Cottage, 4 Hendre, Llangadfan, is a delightfully charming two-bedroomed semi-detached cottage in a beautiful location on the edge of Dyfnant Forest.

Having a balcony, separate lounge and dining room, kitchen and wet room, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £169,950.

A number of external items may be available by separate negotiation including a wood fired hot tub, an attractive insulated "Hobbit House" with wood stove, a large timber shed and a timber potting shed/greenhouse.

From the paved patio the gardens lead across the front of the house with a raised lawn in a sunny position with good views. A pathway then leads to large side gardens with woodland beyond.

There is a stream-fed pond and a second still pond.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more information.



together with a selection of timber garden stores.

One of the most notable features of the property is its location, being just outside of the popular village of Guilsfield and having lovely views over unspoilt countryside.

The sale of Cartrefle offers a great deal to prospective purchasers, especially those looking for multi-generational properties, or separate guest accommodation or even a holiday let. The selling agents strongly recommend an inspection to fully appreciate what is on offer. The property occupies a rural location amidst rolling Welsh border countryside, with lovely surrounding views.

Contact Halls on 01938 555552.





Lenders reporting dip in buy-to-let mortgage requests

Buy-to-let lending for house purchase plunged by nearly 80 per cent year-on-year in March, figures from banks and building societies show.

Landlords borrowed a total of £900 million for house purchases in March, marking a 79.5 per cent decrease compared with March 2016, when £4.4 billion-worth of loans were advanced for this purpose.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), which released the figures, said spring 2016 saw a peak of activity before stamp duty changes were introduced in April last year.

Estate agents reported seeing a rush of buy-to-let investors snapping up properties ahead of the stamp duty increase for this sector on April 1 2016.

Paul Smee, director general of the CML, said: "Overall, lending trends have remained reasonably consistent."

The CML also said first-time buyer and home mover activity came out of a winter seasonal dip in March.

First-time buyers borrowed £4.9 billion in total in March, up 29 per cent on February and a nine per cent increase compared with March 2016.

Home movers borrowed £6.2 billion for house purchases, up 19 per cent on February but down by 33 per cent year-on-year.

A total of £6 billion was also borrowed by home owners re-mortgaging in March – up 13 per cent on February and a 22 per cent increase compared with the same period a year earlier.

Weakest

But the CML said that, overall, home owner house purchase activity was at its weakest for two years across the first three months of 2017, with 155,900 loans advanced to first-time buyers and home movers in the first quarter of this year.

By contrast, the number of re-mortgage loans advanced to home owners was at its highest since the first quarter of 2009, with 106,700 loans handed out in the first three months of 2017.

Mr Smee said: "The relatively sluggish activity among home movers stands in contrast to the growth in first-time buyer and re-mortgage activity, but in aggregate the market is showing broadly the levels of activity we expected."

"As we head into the summer, we expect a continuation of these trends, with both first-time buyer and re-mortgage lending expected to maintain momentum in the light of the very attractive deals currently available."

A fresh mortgage price war has broken out in recent weeks, with some lenders offering some of their lowest ever rates.

Jeremy Leaf, a north London estate agent and a former residential chairman of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), said the figures show that "realistic buyers and sellers are getting on with their business".

He said: "Putting these and other figures into perspective, we are finding on the ground that those prepared to be realistic are buying whereas those who have not yet come to terms with changing market conditions are staying put."

Manifesto pledge to make home-buying process easier

The home-buying process in the UK could become easier and cheaper and new home building could be speeded up with more housing for specialist groups under plans revealed in the Conservative Party manifesto.

The party's manifesto, which has just been launched, will crack down on what it believes are rip-off conveyancing fees and other legal fees associated with buying a property. The current pledge to get rid of letting agent fees is also likely to be carried forward after June 8 if the party wins.

At the launch of the manifesto in Halifax, Prime Minister Theresa May also said there will be measures to help out renters by ending unfair leaseholds and increasing the security of good tenants.

"A Conservative Government will reform and modernise the home-buying process so it is more efficient and less costly. We will crack down on unfair practices in leasehold, such as escalating ground rents. We will also improve protections for those who rent, including by looking at how we increase security for good tenants and encouraging landlords to offer longer tenancies as standard," the document says.

The manifesto says that the current commitment to deliver a million homes by the end of 2020 stands and another half a million will be built by the end of 2022.

"We will deliver the reforms proposed in our Housing White Paper to free up more land for new homes in the right places, speed up build-out by encouraging modern methods of construction and give councils powers to intervene where developers do not act on their planning permissions and we will diversify who builds homes in this country," it added.

There is also a pledge on building better quality homes.

"For too long, careless developers, high land costs and poor planning have conspired to produce housing developments that do not enhance the lives of those living there. We have not provided the infrastructure, parks, quality of space and design that turns housing into community and makes communities prosperous and sustainable," it points out.

"The result is felt by many ordinary, working families. Too often, those renting or buying a home on a modest income have to tolerate substandard



developments, some only a few years old, and are denied a decent place in which to live.

"We will build better houses, to match the quality of those we have inherited from previous generations. That means supporting high-quality, high-density housing like mansion blocks, mews houses and terraced streets," it continues.

But the industry is concerned that the pledge is not sufficient. "The housing market is in crisis. We are simply not building enough homes to meet the demand from both the private rented and sales sectors," said Mark Hayward, chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA) and David Cox, chief executive of the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA), in a joint statement.

"We are concerned that housing has become a political football for future governments to score points against each other and this is getting in the way of actually ensuring we have the right sort of houses available, in the right areas, across all tenures, to provide the homes that

people need," it continued. "Only 32,000 affordable homes were built in 2016, which hasn't made a dent.

"Although the parties are pledging to build hundreds of thousands of new homes, we need to seriously consider if such pledges are even remotely practically possible. As we have said many times, we need to take the politics out of housing and consider other ways to ease the pressure on house building that will allow us to provide a more accessible and affordable housing market for all," it added.

The Tory manifesto also promises to maintain the existing protections on designated land like the green belt, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and 160,000 houses will be built on Government-owned land. There will also be more specialist housing such as multi-generational homes and housing for older people with housing associations offered help to increase their specialist housing stock.

Another major pledge is to have more elderly home owners contribute to their

social care. Currently only people in residential care have the value of their property taken into account, along with savings and other assets, but this would change under the plans in the manifesto.

It would mean hundreds of thousands of owners who are supported by social services at home will have to use their property's value to contribute to the costs of care. But it is understood that no one would have to sell their house while still alive or their spouse lives there to pay for care.

The manifesto stated that many older people have built considerable property assets due to rising property prices, but that a ceiling will be introduced to ensure that, no matter how large the cost of care turns out to be, people will always retain at least £100,000 of their savings and assets, including value in the family home.

"We will extend the current freedom to defer payments for residential care to those receiving care at home, so no one will have to sell their home in their lifetime to pay for care," it continues.

New site launched after planning permission granted

Primesave Properties is pleased to announce that planning permission has now been granted on their new site for 35 homes in Llanymynech, Shropshire.

Meadowdale, off Barley Meadows, will be a development of two, three and four-bedroom starter and family homes.

The new development is offering first time buyers, growing families or investors a chance to purchase a property on this exclusive new development in a private countryside location.

Overlooking the canal, these newly constructed properties will benefit from being in a popular village location with excellent amenities.

The site will be released in three phases.

Reservations are now being taken on phase one with two-bedroom properties



starting at £128,000 and three-bed detached homes from £169,950.

All homes offer purchasers input into the fittings including choices of

flooring, kitchens and tiling. As a local house builder Primesave Properties is able to focus on every purchaser individually and therefore are able to

offer flexibility on finish, timescales, or specification dependant on the persons requirements.

"We recognize that purchasing a home, whether it is for yourself or as an investment is a huge commitment and therefore we want to give you the reassurance and security by walking you through the entire process from start to finish," said a spokesman.

"We offer specific packages for first time buyers, investors or those moving up the ladder giving individual needs every consideration.

"We currently have sites in Morda, Minsterley and Penley where similar homes can be viewed.

"Should you wish to find out more about Meadowdale or any of our other sites please visit our website at www.primesave.co.uk, or call us on 07590 445983."

Pair minutes away from horror of terrorist bombing



Emilie Harrington on the way to the concert at Manchester Arena

A MOTHER and daughter were just minutes away from being caught up in the horror of the Manchester bombing.

Donna Oultram had taken her 11-year-old daughter, Emilie Harrington, to see the Ariana Grande concert on Monday night last week.

They left the concert before the encore to get up to the ninth floor of the Manchester Arena car park where they had to leave their vehicle.

Donna, who recently moved with her family from Llangynog near Oswestry to Connah's

Quay, said she could not stop thinking about what might have happened if they had waited until the end.

She said she and Emilie had been incredibly excited and had enjoyed the concert. She had posed happily with her ticket before the concert and danced during it.

"Now I feel totally numb and lots of thoughts are going through my mind," she said.

"What if we had just stayed for the encore? The car was parked on the ninth floor, the roof

of the arena and I didn't want to be waiting for ages in the queue. We were sat in the car waiting to exit the car park when we heard the explosion.

"I didn't have a clue what it was, then seconds later men, women and kids were running through the entrance doors screaming. They were trying to get away from what they witnessed, trying to get into cars that didn't belong to them.

"I thought it was a gunman, I wound my

windows up, the doors were already locked. Waiting for those red lights to change to exit the car park seemed like an eternity.

People in Oswestry and Welshpool have been paying tribute to those affected by the attack.

A bell was rung at the Marches School in Oswestry for a one minute of silence and a similar tribute was held at North Shropshire College.

Tributes were also paid at various shops and at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.



Patients, staff and visitors paid their respects at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital

Councillors' expenses more than care costs

COUNCILLORS in Mid Wales can claim twice what local authorities pay in care home fees for vulnerable people for their overnight expenses and meal allowances, it has been revealed.

In Powys it costs £60.57 for residential care while councillors can claim £123 for an overnight stay – that's more than they pay for nursing care care for the elderly mentally ill at £87.86. If councillors are away on official business, they can claim £95 a night for overnight accommodation and £28 for meals, making a total of £123.

Councillors can also claim travelling expenses, including 5p a mile for car passengers and 20p a mile for those using a bicycle. In addition, they can receive up to £403 a month for the cost of providing care for children, elderly or disabled relatives while they're on council business.

Care Forum Wales, the body that represents nearly 500 social care providers, has now urged the newly-elected councillors to review care home fees "on the basis of fairness".

Mary Wimbury, senior policy advisor, said: "We certainly don't begrudge councillors the right to claim legitimate expenses while on official duties. Far from it. Councillors do an important job and they must be properly reimbursed and supported.

"But it seems only fair that as a society we provide a similar adequate level of funding for social care for the most vulnerable people in our communities."

Lee Evans, spokesman for Powys County Council, said allowances and expenses for councillors are set by The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – not the county council, and that it was up to individual councillors whether they took their full allowance entitlement.

Students learn skills of circus

CIRCUS stars dropped into Derwen College in Gobowen to deliver a very special lesson for the students.

A team from the Chinese State Circus visited the college to run a circus skills workshop.

They were performing in Shrewsbury when they were approached by the college and immediately agreed to set up a workshop.

Andrew Harris, director of student services, said: "When I saw the Chinese State Circus was in the area I thought what a great opportunity it was to involve the college and provide a real treat for the students.

"We have a creative studies and personal development department which is often booked to perform choreographed dance routines and we thought this would be a great opportunity to meet and chat to the performers from the circus team. We really appreciate the efforts of the team to come across to the college and host the workshop and hope that they also enjoyed the experience."

Company manager of the Chinese State Circus Said Debbach, said: "We were delighted to get the opportunity to visit the students and staff at Derwen College. It's always fun to meet enthusiastic young people. You never know – we could be inspiring the next great circus star."

Tenants urged to show talents

COUNCIL tenants in Powys will be able to showcase their green-fingered talents in an annual garden competition.

Tenants may enter their own garden, estate or nominate a neighbour's garden but only if they have their permission. County councillors and staff from the council's housing services team will also be able to nominate estates and individual gardens if the tenant has given permission.

Simon Inkson, Powys County Council's head of housing, said: "We know that we have lots of tenants who work very hard on their gardens and the competition is designed to give recognition to those people. We would like to encourage everyone who works on their garden.

"Be it a container or hanging basket, a full blown flower display or even a tasty vegetable garden, we want to receive your entry."

Every tenant in Powys will be sent a letter from the council with a form regarding this year's competition.

Male voice choir set for a return to Eisteddfod stage



The Rhosllanerchrugog Male Voice Choir will be performing



The Froncysyllte Male Voice Choir will be performing on stage at this year's international eisteddfod

Report by Sue Austin

A MALE voice choir that performed at the first ever Llangollen International Eisteddfod in 1947 will sing alongside two of Wales's most prolific male voice choirs at the event's landmark 70th anniversary opening concert on July 3.

The Colne Valley Male Voice Choir will join Froncysyllte and Rhosllanerchrugog male voice choirs, to perform.

They will be joined by the Canoldir Male Voice Choir, the world class Cory Brass Band, acclaimed conductor Owain Arwel Hughes, euphonium soloist, David Childs and Voice of the Future 2015 winner, Meir Wyn Roberts, in a rousing opening concert.

Performing powerful operatic choruses, inspiring classical favourites and some of Wales's best known hymns, including Myfanwy and Soldiers Chorus, the show will be a spectacular celebration of brass and voices, setting the tone for the week-long 70th anniversary festival.

Linking the show back to the very first Eisteddfod, Colne Valley was the first male voice choir to take the stage at the 1947 event and they are one of the festival's most prolific competitors. The choir boasts six wins – including a hat trick in 1960, 1961 and 1962 – five second and two third prizes, in 23 competitive visits.

Eilir Owen Griffiths, music director of the International Eisteddfod, said: "The line up for our Monday night opening concert is simply phenomenal and perfectly combines the Eisteddfod's history and heritage with world class musical talent."

Visit www.Llangollen.net for more information about tickets.



The Colne Valley Male Voice Choir sang at the first ever Llangollen International Eisteddfod in 1947

Workhouse movie is up for an award

A FILM based on an historic workhouse near Oswestry has been nominated for an award.

The film 'Ghosts of the Workhouse' has been nominated for a John Hefin award, for the best Welsh language short film.

The award is part of the Carmarthen Bay Film Festival, a qualifying event for BAFTA Cymru. The film 'Ysbrydion y Wyrwys' - 'Ghosts of the Workhouse' was screened last month and the Gala Award Ceremony took place recently at the Stradey Park Hotel, Llanelli.

The film, which can be seen on demand at the Workhouse History Centre, was made by Philip Lane of Beehouse Films and the Llanfyllin Dolydd Building Preservation Trust, with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund. It was directed by Grace Goulding and stars actors from the community, led by Tom Morris from Llanrhaeadr. Producer John Hainsworth said: "It's great to have this recognition of the hard work and talent shown by our brilliant team who created such a fine film on a tiny budget. We're looking forward to celebrating their achievement."

The film, along with its English version and accompanying displays, gained further recognition recently when the Workhouse History Centre received a commendation from the Association for Heritage Interpretation in its community projects category.

The judges said: "We are commending the Workhouse History Centre for its good aims which are provoking and insightful, and the connection made between present-day conditions and historical."

The films can be seen on demand at the Workhouse History Centre which is open daily free of charge.

Charity set to celebrate

A CHARITY is calling on anyone who has volunteered for it over the years to join it to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Oswestry-based Qube, which was originally called Helpmates, wants to recognise and celebrate its volunteers.

It is keen to hear from anyone who has volunteered their services over the years for Dial-a-Ride, befriending, home shopping or the arts service, as this year the charity celebrates 25 years of providing services for local people.

Laurel Roberts, from Qube, said: "It's impossible to over-estimate the priceless contribution made by our volunteers and it's down to them that we're celebrating a quarter century milestone this year. Their hard work and energy has helped make Qube the fantastic, happy and vibrant organisation it is today."

Qube is planning a summer strawberry tea party celebration as a thank you to volunteers and is extending an open invitation to all volunteers, past and present. The afternoon event, on Tuesday, includes musical entertainment and plenty of cake.

Qube is currently compiling a volunteer memory board for the event and would like people to send in their photos or stories.

Call 01691 656882 or email info@qube-oca.org.uk

Accountancy firm expands

AN Oswestry-based financial specialist has joined an accountancy firm in Shropshire as it expands its payroll team.

Emma Vollmer, who lives in Oswestry and specialises in payroll administration, has joined KEW Accountants to help with the firm's growing workload.

Karen Whitehead, managing director of KEW Accountants which works with clients across Shropshire, said she was delighted that Emma was joining the team.

"We are actually being reunited because we both worked at an accountancy firm in Oswestry for about 13 years so it will be great working together again," she said.

Emma said small to medium-sized businesses were under pressure at the moment due to auto-enrolment pension deadlines.

"It's a very busy time and lots of business owners are not quite sure what their responsibilities are regarding auto-enrolment pensions," she said.

Never seen that before at dropping-off time!



Sam Kaye, whose father owns the tank, certainly came ready for action to school

IT is not every day that you get to drive to school in an armoured car.

But that's exactly what pupils and friends of Adcote School got to do, with parents dropping off children in military vehicles as part of the school's signing of the Armed Forces Covenant.

They were led by Sam Kaye, son of Ben Kaye, who owns an Abbot self-propelled artillery piece, which comes with a 105 Howitzer gun. Meanwhile, Florence Galliers stunned pupils and teachers by arriving in a Spartan CVRT armoured fighting vehicle, complete



Sam Kaye arrives in his father Ben's Abbot self-propelled artillery vehicle at Adcote

with a mounted machine gun, owned by father Ian. Pupils at the school at Little Ness near Oswestry also had a go at an army foot drill and used camouflage paint, as well as trying their hand at an assault course and a giant inflatable wall, set up in the school's new gym.

The day was organised by Adcote's head of enrichment Chris Farmer, a former Captain in the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

He said: "The aim was to give a flavour of what the Armed Forces are expected to do and I think we did that."

Work starting on school's new environmental project



The eco-domes will be built on this unused piece of ground at the school



They are getting there - students take a look at the progress so far on the first eco-dome

Report by Naomi Penrose

WORK has started on building the first eco-dome, outdoor classroom at The Marches School in Oswestry as part of a conservation project, much to the students' delight.

The Eden Project-style eco-domes, funded by the Tesco 'Bags of Help' initiative and sponsored by Tesni Homes, Woodhead Oswestry Sales and Lettings, Carbon Zero and Gemma's Premier convenience store, have begun to take shape in the grounds of the school.

The project is seeing a disused piece of land on the school grounds converted into a landscaped area.

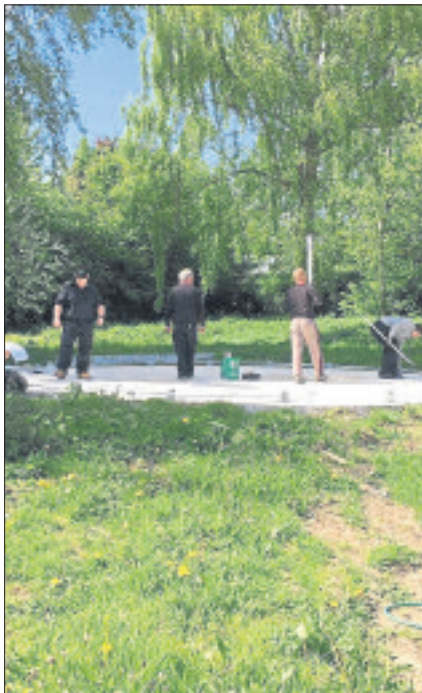
The area will be occupied by three dome shaped classrooms to enhance the students' learning and understanding of conservation.

It will also enhance the students' understanding of the environment and wildlife habitats.

To complete the project with the additional two eco-domes further funding is required.

Students working on the eco-dome conservation project met with Oswestry Lions recently to deliver their vision for the project. Oswestry Lions have offered their support for the next phase.

Natalie Richards, teacher and leader of the eco-committee at The Marches School, said: "It's great to see that the eco-committee's hard work and fundraising efforts are starting to take shape. We visited the eco-dome site this week to take the opportunity to see what we have been working towards, they were all excited to explore the development and get planning for the future."



Work gets started on the first eco-dome



Natalie Richards and the eco-committee are working on the project



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Les keeps it in the Addams Family!

Blimey. Where should we start? How about the bald head or the meltdown on Celebrity Big Brother? Or there was the bum-out-for-Ricky Gervais scene, on Extras, and the painful breakdown of his marriage to Amanda Holden.

Then there were the high times, the successful appearance on New Faces, the brilliant and well-remunerated 15-year stint as presenter on Family Fortunes and, more recently, the two year stint as Michael Rodwell in Coronation Street.

It's been quite a 63 years, for the ginger fella from Garston, near Liverpool. So tell us, Les, where do we start?

"The Addams family," he says. Ah yes, he's featuring in the musical comedy that's been successfully touring the UK and reaches Birmingham's Hippodrome on Tuesday, running until June 10. Les plays Uncle Hester, alongside Samantha Womack, as Moricia and Carrie Hope Fletcher as Wednesday.

Except Les didn't do the usual round of interviews to promote the work. Hell, no. Instead, he went on Loose Women and shaved his head. As you do.

"Before you called, I was giving it the once over with my Gillette," he says. "I tried the wig and it wasn't going to work eight times a week with the sweat and glue. So I shaved my head for charity and we did it on Loose Women."

"I wear a cap if it's cold but I've got used to going out without it now. I get recognised a bit, though mostly people look sympathetically and think I might be ill. But I'm privileged, I haven't lost my hair as some people sadly do. And the money we raised from the head shave has gone to a breast cancer charity."

He is lovely but unmistakably nuts. Les is one of the most pleasant, most open and most honest fellas in showbusiness. He's climbed to the top of the mountain – 15 years hosting Family Fortunes made him a household name – and he's been in the depths of despair.

And though there's no second guessing the thrice-married father-of-three, who became a dad for the third time at 57, one thing is for certain: he'll continue to surprise us. That constant process of reinvention is what's kept him in the nation's consciousness for so many years.

"I've made a conscious decision to keep moving and keep reinventing," he says. "If you stay where you are, you stagnate. If I was hoping to do variety shows like I did at the Alex, in Birmingham, all those years ago then my days of work would be few and far between."

"You have to diversify and play different characters so that you can keep going as long as you like. You have to keep surprising people. The Guardian put The Addams Family in their 'Top Picks'. They said: 'The long and strange career of Les Dennis takes another turn'. I took that as a compliment. Nobody can second guess what I'll do next, me included. I don't have a plan. If somebody comes up with a good idea, I'll do it."

But doesn't some stuff do more harm than good? The Celebrity Big Brother appearance, for instance, when his marriage to Amanda Holden was on the rocks two years after her affair with Neil Morrissey. He doesn't dodge the question.

"Big Brother wasn't my finest



Black humour – Les stars as Uncle Fester in the Addams Family



hour but I came second. I was confused by what was happening. But then people say do you regret it? And I answer that if I hadn't done that then Ricky Gervais wouldn't have called me and he gave me the chance to redeem myself on Extras."

And Les was brilliant in Extras – he smashed it out of the park in one of his funniest and probably-most-authentic roles.

"Ricky was brilliant to work with. I'm sitting in the dressing room where we filmed extras at Wimbledon right now. I've got great fond memories of working on that and the special. Ricky's great."

When you work with him, you get it done and then you have a laugh. I'd work with him again, like a shot."

The strange twists and turns are unfathomable – though it was ever thus. From the an early run of comedy TV shows including New Faces, Russ Abbot's Madhouse and The Russ Abbot Show, there have been unlikely roles in Merseybeat, Casualty, Crossroads and Family Affairs, not forgetting Brookside. There there's been The Bill, Hotel Babylon and Celebrity Masterchef. His agent must have a field day.

"Well it was my agent who came up with this. After leaving Corrie, my agent asked if I wanted to see the producers of The Addams Family. I knew the show had been a big hit in the New York and people were waiting for it to come over. We are the first UK cast, so we got to originate this version of it."

"The whole point is that the audience has to work out who is normal and who isn't. That's the thing. At one stage, Grandma says 'define normal'. And she's so right because every family is dysfunctional in some way. Over the course of the show, you realise that The Addams Family are a totally loving and caring family." Birmingham will be a blast

The audience has to work out who is normal and who isn't

for the often-returning actor, who's made the city a home from home. I've spent loads of time in the city. We did Family Fortunes we started at ATV as well as New Faces, all those years ago. So I go back with Birmingham a long way. And I've worked at the Hippodrome many times. I did Hairspray with Brian Conley and a show with Su Pollard. I've done Birmingham Rep and The Alex a few times as well. The audiences in Birmingham are always absolutely delightful. They're one of the best in the country."

Les's trials and tribulations are, it seems, a long way behind him. And, while maintaining a successful and decidedly entertaining career, he's also happily married to Claire Nicholson, who he married in 2009. They love nothing more than spending time with their kids.

"I just love being a parent. It was a surprise to me to have two kids. I didn't expect it. My son Philip is 37 and my little ones Eleanor and Tom are nine and six. I adore them all. Philip is their big brother and he's great with them. I do the school run and any spare time is with the kids. Even on a tour like this, we have a lot of the dates in the summer where they come along, like Southampton, Cardiff, Dublin and Southend. They love it. I make the pancakes for them in the morning."

"They love being around the theatre and they come to the warm up and stand on the stage. They were a little scared of Lurch at first, but now they're cool."

And so, remarkably, is Les. One of the most genuine and sincere performers in the theatre, he's made a career out of left-turns, without going round in circles.

● For more entertainment news see The Ticket in your Shropshire Star every Friday.

Guest of honour spot for racer John

Legendary 23-times Isle of Man TT winner John McGuinness will be the guest of honour at an event near Oswestry.

He will be at LlanBikeFest 2017 – the Llangollen Motorcycle Festival – at the town's Royal International Pavilion on August 5 and 6.

LlanBikeFest co-founder John Hutchinson said: "Wales has declared 2017 as the Year of Legends, so it is absolutely fitting that John will play a prominent part on both days of the festival.

"His TT record is second only to the late Joey Dunlop, so this will be a brilliant opportunity for fans to meet him and pick up a signed

copy of his new autobiography, *Built For Speed*.

"But LlanBikeFest isn't all about racing. This year we are making it an even better day out for all the family, with children aged 15 and under get in for free.

"As well as hundreds of motorcycles of every type on show, together with trials displays and competitions, there will be spectacular mountain bike stunts, birds of prey flights, rides and children's entertainment, plus a great line-up of bands both days.

"Above all, LlanBikeFest is a celebration of all that people love about motorcycles, in a

location that has some of the most legendary biking roads in Britain."

Insurance specialist Carole Nash has also increased its backing for the fast-growing event, which is now in its third year. Carole Nash insurance brokers, sponsor of this year's festival, will be adding to the highlights by bringing along top custom bike builders, Destiny Cycles, who will be unveiling a stunning motorcycle creation in real gold, called Goldrush. Rebecca Donohue, head of marketing at Carole Nash, said: "We're absolutely delighted to be the sponsor of this year's LlanBikeFest."



Coming up

Attractions to thrill 60,000 at air show

THRILLING displays, an array of aircraft and a 1960s vintage village are expected to attract thousands of people to RAF Cosford for one of the biggest air shows in the country.

About 60,000 people are expected to flock to this year's event on June 11.

Wing Commander Chris Jones, chairman of Cosford Air Show, said: "Our aim is to improve public understanding of the service in order to maximise support for the RAF and its activities.

"It is an amazing show. We have four themes this year. I'm really looking forward to seeing smiley faces. I'm really keen for the public to see our young trainees who will be our best ambassadors on the day. We do have aspirations in the future to do a two-day show. We will be posing that after this year's air show." A huge amount of planning has been put into this year's event, with 2,000 people having a role to play.

There will be a series of displays including the world famous Red Arrows flying their nine Hawk jets, the Eurofighter Typhoon and the Breitling Wingwalkers.

The RAF Falcons and Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will also form part of the six-hour flying display. Meanwhile, the Tucano T1 and Squirrel HT1 will be among the aircraft on static display. The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) hangar will once again be a focal point of the show and bosses say it will also become a permanent feature at RAF Cosford.



Big comedy names form festival line-up

The final line-up for a major weekend comedy festival has been announced.

A number of big name comedians – including Greg Davies, Joe Lycett and Tom Wigglesworth – will be joined by local and national comedy acts for Shrewsbury International Comedy Festival.

The event is being held at a number of venues across the town, from July 21 to 23, and has attracted some of the most famous faces in comedy.

Along with Davies, who grew up in Wern, Birmingham-born Lycett – who has appeared on *Live at the Apollo* and *Eight Out of 10 Cats* – and stand-up comedian Wigglesworth, who also stars in hit *Radio 4* show *Tom Wigglesworth's Hang Ups*, and 13 other local and national comedians will be taking to the stage.

These include Adam Rowe, Grenn Wool, Pippa Evans, Matt Richardson, Phil Nichol and Abandoman.

Venues include The Old Post Office in High Street, Theatre Severn, St Nicholas Cafe Bar in Castle Street and The Old Market Hall in the Square.

Tickets, which are available from Theatre Severn box office on 01743 281281 or by going to www.theatresevern.co.uk, cost £5 per gig.

The festival will round off with a sell-out three-hour long Gala at Theatre Severn hosted by Davies, known for his performances in *The Inbetweeners*, *Cuckoo* and his guest appearances in *Mock the Week* and *Would I Lie to You?*

It is timed to provide top circuit acts with opportunities for last minute previews for their Edinburgh Fringe Festival shows.

The festival is the idea of Kevin Bland and Beth McGowan. Kevin is a former stand-up comedian who has promoted comedy in Shropshire and beyond for over a decade. Beth holds nearly 20 years' experience in sound production and event management.

Kevin said "This is something Beth and I have talked about for a while, but we couldn't have got it off the ground without the enthusiasm and support of the venues."

Funnyman Greg Davies will host the finale of the Shrewsbury International Comedy Festival in July this year



"I'm really looking forward to seeing smiley faces."

Venues include The Old Post Office in High Street, Theatre Severn, St Nicholas Cafe Bar in Castle Street and The Old Market Hall in the Square.

Stars on way for game of footie

Television and football stars will be coming to Oswestry to play in a charity football match this summer.

Actors from *Emmerdale* and *Hollyoaks* will join forces with former footballers to line up in the *Once Upon a Smile Celebrity XI* in memory of Zackery Dell, who was born in May 2014 but passed away minutes later.

Emmerdale star Danny Miller, who plays Aaron Livesy in the soap, will be bringing a raft of other stars to Oswestry, to take part in the charity football match on July 2, at the Venue at Park Hall, the home of The New Saints Football Club.

This is the third year, the charity fundraising match will take place, and this year organisers are hoping to raise at least £6,000 for charity.

In the two years the matches have been held, nearly £11,000 has been raised for Hope House Children's Hospice, based at Morda near Oswestry, and *Once Upon a Smile*.

The match kicks off at 2pm.

There will also be a children's tournament before the main match, as well as a bouncy castle.

Tickets cost £8 for adults and £4 for children, while children under three go free.

Family tickets – for two adults and two children – cost £20. VIP tickets will also be available, costing £15.

Tickets can be purchased from The Venue or Owens Travelmaster, Beatrice Street, Oswestry.



Purr-fect musical to take stage

The purr-fect award winning musical *Cats* is set to hit Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn stage.

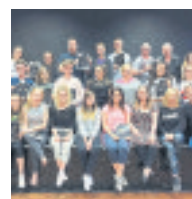
Following runs in the West End and Broadway, a major UK tour, a live film recording and multiple cast recordings. Get Your Wiggle On's adult musical theatre group are delighted to be able to bring this magical musical to the stage.

Cats, winner of seven Tony Awards including best musical, is a family-friendly musical packed with great songs, energetic dance routines, laughter and love.

Cats is a musical composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber, based on Old Possum's *Book of Practical Cats* by T. S. Eliot. The musical tells the story of a tribe of cats called the Jellicles and the night they make what is known as "the Jellicle choice" and decide which cat will ascend to the Heaviside Layer and come back to a new life.

It's the perfect musical for the 'Wigles', who are known locally for previous productions *Grease*, *Legally Blonde*, *Hairspray*, *Footloose* to name just a few in a long list of shows they have performed in Theatre Severn. The company of all local performers have been working hard in rehearsals in their Shrewsbury studio to bring the musical and lyrics to life.

Cats is being performed at Theatre Severn from Wednesday to Saturday next week with performances nightly at 7.30pm and an additional matinee on the Saturday.



*A FOLK concert with a difference is to take place soon.

Rhydydroesau Village Hall near Oswestry will host Emma and Daniel Reid on Saturday, June 17.

The couple live in Sweden and their programme on this stop-off on their nationwide tour is a mix of lyrical folk music gathered from Sweden and the British Isles.

From Northumberland, Emma started playing violin at the age of three and met her husband at the Royal College of Music.

Some of their music is influenced by the baroque era with the violin and sax together making for an intriguing sound.

Doors open at 7.30pm with tickets costing £10 and £6 for children.

NOTICE BOARD

These are available from Borderline Music on (01691) 791403 or (01948) 710218.

*THE next supper and entertainment evening at the Church House in Welshpool will take place on Saturday and feature Carl Brent, comedy impressionist and singer.

For many years Carl Brent has been entertaining audiences throughout the UK with his uniquely captivating comedy style.

Carl has been fortunate enough to have shared the stage with many top international stars, and has received

critical acclaim in professional publications such as *The Stage* and many local and national entertainment reviews.

Carl's performances have been described as having a truly wide appeal, his impressions lifelike, confidently delivering a repertoire ranging from Joe Pasquale to Elvis to Victor Meldrew, and many more characters. Carl also has vast experience in not only performing but producing and directing shows and pantos. Tickets cost £10 including a knife and fork supper. Doors open 7pm. Evening commences at 7.30pm. Tickets from Welshpool Jewellers.

*THE annual Family Vintage Show will be celebrating its 30th anniversary when it returns to the Shropshire showground

later this summer. The show, organised by the Mid Shropshire Vintage Club, is a two-day extravaganza and has moved to the first weekend in July.

It draws exhibitors from all over the UK to showcase their vehicles, including classic cars, motorbikes, Land Rovers, military vehicles, steam engines, tractors and more, and used to be held in June. There will be shire horses, craft and trade stands, fairground rides, food, a bar and more. The club is seeking new members to help grow the show and other events.

The show runs from 9.30am to 5pm on July 1 and from 9.30am to 4pm on July 2 at the Greenhouse West Mid Showground in Shrewsbury. Each year, a special tractor is featured and in 2017 this will be the Ford and Fordson tractor.



Casualty
8.25pm
Elle agrees to deliver a career talk at her son Blake's school, but her speech is derailed when she discovers some unexpected truths about her child and his friends. Luckily, Josh and Jacob are on hand to help. Medical drama, starring Charles Venn, Jaye Griffiths and Azuka Oforka.



Dad's Army
8.30pm
Mainwaring and his platoon are put in charge of manning an observation post on a derelict pier, but they are marooned when their boat drifts away. Warden Hodges spots their signal light and rows out to tell them to switch it off, but his boat sinks and he is stranded with them.



Take Me Out
6.30pm
Paddy McGuinness presents the dating game, with a ventriloquist from Reading, a property developer from Richmond, a judo coach from Perth and a Michael Jackson impersonator from Southport entering the 'love lift' in the hope of impressing 30 single women and winning a date.



The Restoration Man
7pm
George Clarke returns to Harrogate, North Yorkshire, to check on the progress of Carol and Majid Nadry, who after 25 years living in a bungalow, embarked on an ambitious midlife adventure – buying a water tower to turn into a five-storey home.



NCIS
8pm
Ziva's family farm in Israel is devastated by an explosion, and the former NCIS agent is reported dead. Determined to seek justice, Tony ignores orders to stay off the case and sets out to track down Trent Kort, the British national and ex-CIA agent who remains the prime suspect. Last in the series.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Live. Jamestown and Peaky Blinders star Sophie Rundle joins Matt Tebbutt to sample culinary treats prepared by Tony Singh and Anna Hansen in the studio kitchen.
11.30	Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. The chef gives a masterclass in grilling. Last in the series. (R)
12.00	Bargain Hunt. Two teams are challenged to pick up bargains at a Derby antiques fair with the help of experts Kate Bliss and David Harper. Presented by Tim Wonnacott. (R)
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Escape to the Country. Jules Hudson helps a retired lecturer search for a property in the countryside of Northumberland on a budget of £200,000. Away from the hunt, the presenter visits a castle. (R)
2.15	Money for Nothing. Sarah Moore saves three items from the recycling centre in Witley, Surrey. (R)
3.15	FILM: How to Train Your Dragon (2010). A clumsy Viking boy longs to slay a dragon, but ends up befriendng one instead. Animated fantasy, with the voices of Jay Baruchel and Gerard Butler.
4.45	Pointless Celebrities. With famous faces from children's television. (R)
5.30	BBC News.
5.40	Midlands Today; Weather.
5.50	FILM: Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981). Archaeologist Indiana Jones tries to locate the Ark of the Covenant before the Nazis get their hands on it. Steven Spielberg's action adventure, with Harrison Ford and Karen Allen.
7.35	Doctor Who. Bill steps into the role of the hero when she discovers everyone in the world has fallen under the sway of a mass delusion, including the Doctor. Guest starring Michelle Gomez.
8.25	Casualty. Elle discovers some uncomfortable truths about her son Blake and his friends while delivering a career talk at his school. Medical drama, starring Jaye Griffiths.
9.15	Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes worries about Dermot's choice of best man for the wedding, but is distracted when her neighbour Winnie's husband is rushed into hospital. (R)
9.45	BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.05	Clique. Holly seeks to expose the hidden crimes of Solasta and the clique, and turns to a new group of friends to help her bring the truth to light. Drama, starring Synnove Karlsen.
10.50	Clique. Holly is forced to ally herself with Rachel, and doubts every choice she has made throughout her first term as she races to bring Georgia back from the brink. Last in the series.
11.35	FILM: The Spectacular Now (2013). A teenage loner bonds with a drunken classmate who helps her create a new persona for herself to boost her confidence. Drama, starring Miles Teller and Shailene Woodley.
1.05	Weather for the Week Ahead.
1.10	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.00	Coast. A circular tour of the Irish Sea. (R)
6.45	FILM: Never a Dull Moment (1950). Romantic comedy, with Irene Dunne and Fred MacMurray.
8.10	FILM: Goodbye, Mr Chips (1939). Period drama, with Robert Donat.
10.00	Monty Halls' Great Hebridean Escape. The marine biologist visits Vatersay and Benbecula. (R)
11.00	Homes Under the Hammer. Properties about to be auctioned in Liverpool, Stoke and London. (R)
12.00	Great British Menu. The entrants representing Scotland prepare starters. (R)
12.30	Great British Menu. Three chefs hope to impress with their fish dishes. (R)
1.00	Joan Fontaine: Talking Pictures. An insight into the life of the actress. (R)
1.30	FILM: Ivanhoe (1952). Medieval adventure, starring Robert Taylor.
3.15	Natural World. A sea otter pup growing up on the coast of California. (R)
4.00	Flog It! Valuing antiques at Blackpool Tower Circus. (R)
5.00	Gardeners' World. Monty Don gives advice on herbs that will grow happily in shade. (R)
6.00	FILM: Grow Your Own (2007). Town residents are outraged when a refugee family is given space on their allotments to help rehabilitate a traumatised father. Comedy drama, with Benedict Wong and Philip Jackson.
7.30	The Lake District: A Wild Year. Cutting-edge camera techniques offering a new and unique perspective on a turbulent year in the life of England's largest national park. Narrated by Bernard Cribbins. (R)
8.30	Dad's Army. Mainwaring and his platoon are put in charge of manning an observation post on a derelict pier, but they are marooned when their boat drifts away. (R)
9.00	Sgt Pepper's Musical Revolution – with Howard Goodall. The composer explores why the Beatles' 50-year-old album is still revered as an innovative, revolutionary and influential release.
10.00	FILM: The Sapphires (2012). Four Aboriginal Australian singers are propelled to stardom when they entertain American troops in the Vietnam War. Drama, starring Deborah Mailman and Chris O'Dowd.
11.40	Cricket: ICC Champions Trophy Highlights. Sri Lanka v South Africa. Action from the latest match of the tournament, which saw the Group B teams face each other at The Oval.
12.30	Versailles. Louis XIV is offered the chance to change the course of his conflict with William of Orange; (R) Inside Versailles. Kate Williams and Greg Jenner discuss William of Orange. (R)
1.30	FILM: Miss Bala (2011). A Mexican woman searching for her friend is captured by a drug gang and forced to aid their trafficking operation. Crime drama, with Stephanie Sigman and Noe Hernandez.
3.20	This is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street 6.25 Sooty 6.35 Signed Stories: Share a Story 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Super 4 7.20 Marvel Avengers Assemble 7.45 Thunderbirds Are Go 8.10 Ben 10
8.25	ITV News.
8.30	Weekend. With guests Joe Wicks, Jon Culshaw and Andre Rieu.
9.25	ITV Racing: The Opening Show. A look ahead to the Epsom Derby.
10.20	Judge Rinder. Cameras follow criminal barrister Robert Rinder as he takes on real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
11.20	Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
12.20	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.25	Bigdeads. The winning contestants from the past five episodes return to face more physical challenges while wearing giant model heads of celebrities. With Jason Manford. (R)
1.30	ITV Racing Live: The Derby. Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present coverage of the Epsom Derby, one of the most prestigious races on the calendar, at 4.30. Additional races at 2.00, 2.35, 3.10 and 3.45.
5.00	You've Been Framed! Unleashed! Comical clips, narrated by Harry Hill. (R)
6.00	ITV News Central; Weather.
6.10	ITV News and Weather.
6.30	Take Me Out. A ventriloquist from Reading, a property developer from Richmond, a judo coach from Perth and a Michael Jackson impersonator from Southport try to win a date. Last in the series.
8.00	The British Soap Awards 2017: Live. Philip Schofield hosts the awards show live at the Lowry in Salford, as the stars of Coronation Street, Doctors, EastEnders, Emmerdale and Hollyoaks celebrate their achievements.
10.00	The Keith and Paddy Picture Show. Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness present their half-hour remake of Rocky, starring Anna Friel, Marvin Humes and Andi Peters. Last in the series.
10.30	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.45	UEFA Champions League Highlights. Juventus v Real Madrid. Mark Pougatch presents action from the final of the prestigious competition, which took place at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff.
11.45	The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on quiz expert the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)
12.45	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	Who's Doing the Dishes? Singer Joe McElDERy hosts a dinner party for four strangers, who try to guess their mystery host's identity. Hosted by Brian McFadden. (R)
3.50	ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4	
6.20	Marathon: Tobago International Sea to Sea Marathon.
6.45	Mobil 1 The Grid. Neel Jani relives the final laps of the 2016 24 Hours of Le Mans race.
7.15	Motor Sport: British GT.
7.40	Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
8.05	Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
8.30	Frasier. Niles takes part in a festive pageant. (R)
9.00	Frasier. A series of good deeds backfires. (R)
9.30	Frasier. Roz helps Frasier arrange a date for his father. (R)
10.00	The Big Bang Theory. (R)
10.30	The Big Bang Theory. (R)
10.55	The Big Bang Theory. (R)
11.25	The Simpsons. (R)
11.55	The Simpsons. (R)
12.25	The Simpsons. Lisa feels neglected by Homer. (R)
12.55	Come Dine with Me. James Cox hosts the first of the week's dinner parties in Northampton. (R)
1.25	Come Dine with Me. Mother-of-three Donna Harris hosts Northampton's second dinner party. (R)
1.55	Come Dine with Me. Part-time actress Caroline Nash hosts on day three in Northampton. (R)
2.30	Come Dine with Me. Barb Wiles hosts the fourth dinner party in the Northampton area. (R)
3.00	Come Dine with Me. The final dinner party from Northampton. (R)
3.35	A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. A South Yorkshire couple seek an Italian holiday home in Tuscany. (R)
4.35	Big House, Little House. Ambitious home-owners plan very different kitchen-diner projects.
5.35	Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer go house-hunting in the East Midlands. (R)
6.30	Channel 4 News.
6.55	Party Election Broadcast. An election broadcast by one of the political parties.
7.00	The Restoration Man. George Clarke checks on the progress of North Yorkshire couple Carol and Majid Nadry, who embarked on an ambitious midlife adventure – turning a water tower into a five-storey home. (R)
8.00	Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson. The historian explores the UK's network of ancient trackways and roads, which have been walked by pilgrims, hunters and invaders over the course of the past 5,000 years. (R)
9.00	FILM: Legend (2015). Premiere. Biopic of the Kray brothers, exploring their rise to power from the point of view of Reggie's wife Frances. Starring Tom Hardy as both twins, with Emily Browning.
11.35	FILM: Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (2011). A former intelligence operative is brought out of retirement to uncover a Soviet mole in a high-ranking position in MI6. Cold War thriller, starring Gary Oldman and Colin Firth.
1.50	The Last Leg. (R)
2.50	Hollyoaks. (R)
4.55	Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb.
5.55	3rd Rock from the Sun. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Pip Ahoy! 6.10 Milkshake! Monkey 6.15 Milkshake! Bop Box 6.20 The Mr Men Show 6.30 Peppa Pig 6.35 Peppa Pig 6.40 Wissper 6.50 Paw Patrol 7.00 Bob the Builder 7.15 Fireman Sam 7.25 Olly the Little White Van 7.30 Olly the Little White Van 7.40 Paw Patrol 8.10 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.30 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.45 Wissper 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.10 Shimmer and Shine 9.20 Little Princess 9.40 Peppa Pig 9.50 Peppa Pig 10.00 Peppa Pig 10.05 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10.20	The Fairly OddParents. Double bill. Timmy wishes he were a talented musician. (R)
10.55	Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)
11.15	Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)
11.15	Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)
11.15	Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)
12.15	Police Interceptors: The Fatal Four. Kev Salter shows presenter Rick Edwards how to spot a drunk driver. (R)
1.15	Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. People living on state welfare in Scotland. (R)
2.15	Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. People who have had their benefits cut or withheld since tougher sanctions began. (R)
3.10	Benefits Britain: Me & My 14 Kids. Part two of two. A couple with 14 children who claim more than £70,000 a year. (R)
4.10	The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. A dispute over property boundaries results in a man falling victim to a campaign of terror. (R)
5.10	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Gareth and Craig investigate a case of mistaken identity in Shropshire.
6.10	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Officers chase £4,500 in court fees in North Wales after a property deal turned sour, and in Birmingham the agents try to collect over £3,500 from a single mum. (R)
7.10	NCIS: Los Angeles. Part two of two. The Chameleon's planted clues lead the team on a wild goose chase as the search for missing NSA agent Mike Atley intensifies. Last in the series.
8.00	NCIS. Former NCIS agent Ziva is reported dead in an explosion on her farm in Israel, prompting Tony to seek vengeance on the British spy thought to be responsible. Last in the series.
8.55	5 News Weekend.
9.00	Most Shocking Celebrity Moments of the 90s. Infamous incidents from the 1990s, including OJ Simpson's trial, Eric Cantona kicking a fan, and Jarvis Cocker interrupting Michael Jackson's performance at the Brit awards. (R)
12.05	Access.
12.15	SuperCasino.
3.10	FILM: Setup (2011). Crime thriller, starring Bruce Willis.
4.40	House Doctor. (R)
5.05	Wildlife SOS. (R)
5.30	Access.
5.40	Angels of Jarm. (R)
5.50	Roary the Racing Car. (R)



Planet Earth II: A World of Wonder
9pm
A compilation of some of the most spectacular footage from the series, capturing wildlife from around the world on film using the latest camera technology, and revealing how they adapt to overcome the challenges posed by living in jungles.



White Gold
10pm
Vincent, Fitzpatrick and Lavender meet a group of men from a local publishing company, raising the alpha male stakes when the trio discover the exciting perks the publishers receive in their line of business, namely company cars. In the showroom, receptionist Carol tries to get to grips with the new office.



Catchphrase
6.45pm
Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to 'see it and say it' as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000.



Cabins in the Wild with Dick Strawbridge
8pm
Dick Strawbridge and Will Hardie take a look at a cabin inspired by the legend of King Arthur and a low-tech double-decker tepee. They also travel further afield in search of inspiration for their own projects, visiting a sea fort in the English Channel.



2012
5.05pm
A scientist learns the world is soon to face a global cataclysm that will wipe out the human race, but finds the US president has plans to secretly save a fraction of the population, leaving everyone else to die. Disaster movie, with John Cusack and Chiwetel Ejiofor. Edited for language.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
9.00	The Andrew Marr Show.
10.00	Pentecost with the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby leads a live service from Holy Trinity Church, Folkestone. Songs and hymns include Happy Day, How Great Thou Art, and 10,000 Reasons.
11.00	Sunday Politics West Midlands. The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.
12.15	Bargain Hunt. From the Westpoint Exeter. (R)
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Homes Under the Hammer. Featuring properties in Burton on Trent, London's Maida Vale and Staffordshire. (R)
2.15	Money for Nothing. Items reclaimed from a recycling centre in Witley, Surrey. (R)
3.00	Shop Well for Less? Helping families change the way they shop. (R)
4.00	Escape to the Country. Helping a globe-trotting young couple search for a permanent sanctuary. (R)
4.45	Points of View. Jeremy Vine presents a selection of viewers' comments.
5.00	Songs of Praise. Celebrating the golden jubilee of Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral.
5.35	BBC News.
5.50	Midlands Today; Weather.
6.00	Question Time Leaders Special. David Dimbleby presents a Leaders' Special Question Time with Tim Farron of the Liberal Democrats, and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, leader of the SNP.
7.00	Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison report from Essex, visiting a nature reserve for dragonflies, and a colony of common seals, and meeting people who build racing rowing boats.
8.00	Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents a second show from New Lanark on the banks of the Clyde, where items brought in to be valued include diamonds that were hidden in an upholstered chair.
9.00	Planet Earth II: A World of Wonder. A compilation of some of the most spectacular footage from the series, following wildlife living in jungles, mountains, deserts, islands, grasslands and cities.
10.00	BBC News.
10.25	Midlands Today; Weather.
10.35	Election Questions. Green Party co-leader Jonathan Bartley and UKIP leader Paul Nuttall answer questions from a studio audience. Presented by Jo Coburn.
11.35	Election Questions. Leanne Wood, leader of Plaid Cymru, discusses the issues with a studio audience. Presented by Bethan Rhys Roberts.
12.05	The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.
12.40	FILM: Up There (2012). Comic fantasy, starring Burn Gorman.
1.55	Weather for the Week Ahead.
2.00	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.00	A to Z of TV Gardening. (R)
6.45	The Instant Gardener. (R)
7.30	Gardeners' World. Monty Don gives advice on herbs that will grow happily in shade. (R)
8.30	The Beechgrove Garden.
9.00	Countryfile. A round-up of reports on spring. (R)
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.
11.30	Great British Menu. (R)
12.00	Great British Menu. The Scotland chefs prepare desserts. (R)
12.30	Great British Menu. The two remaining Scotland chefs compete. (R)
1.00	Hairy Bikers' Best of British. A selection of sugar-rich sweets and desserts. (R)
1.45	Laurence Olivier: Talking Pictures. Profile of actor Laurence Olivier. (R)
2.15	FILM: Pride and Prejudice (1940). Period drama, starring Laurence Olivier.
4.10	Natural World. A mission to save the endangered giraffes of Africa. (R)
5.10	Flog It! From Derby. (R)
6.00	The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway. Documentary following the work of more than 10,000 engineers and construction workers as they build Crossrail – a new train line linking east and west London. (R)
7.00	Dragons' Den. The panel assesses the profit-making potential of a fledgling fashion business, a brand of pork scratchings and a device for folding paper. Presented by Evan Davis. (R)
8.00	The Life Swap Adventure. A nurse from Nottingham who wants to live somewhere with a sense of community swaps places with a B&B owner from Alaska, who is hoping to escape her small-town life.
9.00	Paul Hollywood's Big Continental Road Trip. Paul spends six days exploring Germany in six different cars, visiting a Cold War checkpoint, a nudist colony, and the Nurburgring racetrack, where he is joined by comic Al Murray.
10.00	White Gold. Vincent, Fitzpatrick and Lavender meet a group of men from a local publishing company, and in the showroom, receptionist Carol tries to get to grips with the new office computer. (R)
10.30	Dara O Briain Crowd Tickler. The comedian performs at the Hammersmith Apollo, as part of his 2015 tour, demonstrating his skill at expertly crafted routines, cracking one-liners and spontaneous gag-making. (R)
11.30	Cricket: ICC Champions Trophy Highlights. India v Pakistan. Action from the latest match of the tournament, which saw the Group B teams face each other at Edgbaston in Birmingham.
12.20	FILM: Salvage (2009). Horror, starring Neve McIntosh.
1.35	Sign Zone: Question Time. (R)
2.35	Sign Zone: Holby City. (R)
3.35	This Is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Bottom Kocker Street 6.10 Bottom Kocker Street 6.25 Sooty 6.35 Signed Stories: Share a Story 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Super 4 7.20 Marvel Avengers Assemble 7.45 Thunderbirds Are Go 8.10 Ben 10
8.25	ITV News.
8.30	Weekend. With guests Jackie Woodburne and Laura Whitmore.
9.25	Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. Pen-y-ghent, the smallest fell on the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge. (R)
10.00	Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston.
11.00	Judge Rinder. Cameras follow criminal barrister Robert Rinder as he takes on real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
12.05	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.20	FILM: The Queen (2006). Fact-based drama about how the royal family and Tony Blair dealt with the aftermath of the death of Princess Diana. Starring an Oscar-winning Helen Mirren, with Michael Sheen.
2.25	Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard, in which contestants answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine in the hope of winning up to £10,000. (R)
3.25	Live: Michael Carrick Testimonial. Manchester United '08 XI v Michael Carrick All Star XI (Kick-off 4.00pm). Coverage of the match at Old Trafford honouring the career of the longstanding Red Devils midfielder.
6.15	ITV News Central; Weather.
6.25	ITV News and Weather.
6.45	Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R)
7.30	Britain's Got Talent Final. Ant and Dec host the climax of this year's nationwide talent search, with viewers casting their votes to decide which of the acts will be this year's champion. Last in the series.
10.00	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.20	Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. (R)
11.25	Unbelievable Moments Caught on Camera. Alastair Stewart presents extraordinary eyewitness footage filmed by members of the public, featuring fearsome storms, encounters with nature and dramatic rescues. (R)
12.25	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	Motorsport UK. Action from Donington Park, featuring the Renault UK Clio Cup and the Ginetta GT4 Supercup. Presented by Richard John Neil.
3.50	ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.
5.05	The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

Channel 4	
6.20	3rd Rock from the Sun. Tommy witnesses Dick's teaching methods. (R)
6.45	Everybody Loves Raymond. Geoffrey has trouble getting the hang of a game. (R)
7.10	Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
7.35	Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
8.00	Frasier. (R)
8.25	Frasier. Three Valentine's Day stories. (R)
8.55	Eating Well with Hemsley + Hemsley. Jasmine and Melissa Hemsley source meat for an onglot steak.
9.30	Sunday Brunch. With guests Dan Aykroyd, Ewen Bremner and Tim Westwood.
12.30	Eat the Week. Simon Rimmer offers advice on using spices.
1.30	The Simpsons. Bart fakes his own kidnapping. With the guest voice of 50 Cent. (R)
2.00	FILM: The Tigger Movie (2000). Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Jim Cummings.
3.35	Winnie-the-Pooh: The Most Famous Bear in the World. Alan Titchmarsh celebrates Winnie-the-Pooh's 90th birthday. (R)
4.35	A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. Laura Hamilton helps a woman find a home in Spain. (R)
5.35	Homes by the Sea. New series. Charlie Luxton visits a modern thatched home in north-west Scotland.
6.30	Channel 4 News.
7.00	The Supervet. A champion running dog is admitted with an abnormal elbow joint, and a Rhodesian ridgeback undergoes a high-risk operation to relieve the pressure on the nerves in its spine. (R)
8.00	Cabins in the Wild with Dick Strawbridge. Dick Strawbridge and Will Hardie take a look at a cabin inspired by King Arthur and a double-decker tepee, and seek inspiration in a sea fort and a romantic retreat in Sussex.
9.00	The Handmaid's Tale. Offred and her fellow handmaids gather to assist with the birth of Janine's baby, which brings back upsetting memories of having a baby in the time before the despotic regime.
10.00	Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
11.05	Micky Flanagan's Out Out Tour. A performance by the comedian from his nationwide tour, featuring recollections of his upbringing in London's East End and observations about the British class system. (R)
12.10	FILM: Apocalypto (2006). A Mayan tribesman captured for human sacrifice escapes into the jungle in a bid to save his family. Mel Gibson's historical adventure, starring Rudy Youngblood and Dalia Hernandez.
2.30	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R)
3.15	KOTV Boxing Weekly.
3.45	Gillette World Sport.
4.10	Mobil 1 The Grid. (R)
4.35	Shipping Wars UK. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey 6.05 Mr Men 6.15 Peppa Pig 6.20 Peppa Pig 6.25 Wissper 6.35 Paw Patrol 6.45 Bob the Builder 6.55 Fireman Sam 7.10 Oily the Little White Van 7.15 Oily the Little White Van 7.20 Paw Patrol 7.45 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.10 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.25 Wissper 8.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 8.50 Shimmer and Shine 9.00 Little Princess 9.20 Peppa Pig 9.30 Peppa Pig 9.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.50	The Fairly OddParents. Double bill. Poof becomes unwell. (R)
10.25	Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of cat-themed internet videos.
10.50	The Gadget Show. Georgie Barrat sees how well technology has served Monkey Tree FC. (R)
11.40	Police Interceptors: Rookies and Raids. Ben Sutcliffe takes presenter Rick Edwards through interceptor training. (R)
12.45	Police Interceptors. Stu deals with a case involving an alleged assault and a missing crossbow. (R)
1.40	FILM: Asteroid: Final Impact (2015). Disaster thriller, starring Mark Lutz.
3.20	FILM: 10.0 Earthquake (2014). Disaster movie, starring Cameron Richardson.
5.05	FILM: 2012 (2009). Disaster movie, starring John Cusack.
7.55	5 News Weekend.
8.00	FILM: Jackie Chan's The Forbidden Kingdom (2008). An American teenager is sent back in time to ancient China where he takes on a quest with the aid of two legendary warriors. Martial arts adventure, starring Jet Li and Jackie Chan.
10.00	FILM: The Expendables 2 (2012). The mercenary team battles a rival band of hired guns who have killed one of their number. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone and Jean-Claude Van Damme. Includes 5 News Update at 11pm.
11.50	Greatest Ever Disaster Movies. Countdown as voted for by viewers of Channel 5 and readers of The Times, with contributions from actors including Robert Vaughn, George Kennedy and Ali Larter. (R)
1.15	SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10	Top 20 Funniest. A countdown of the funniest video clips in America, from those that went viral to home movies, pranks, surveillance footage and news bloopers. (R)
4.00	World's Most Pampered Pets. Part two of two. A disco designed specifically for dogs. (R)
4.50	House Doctor. A selection of highlights. (R)
5.15	Wildlife SOS. The work of an animal sanctuary. (R)
5.40	Angels of Jarm. A song about burgers. (R)
5.50	Roary the Racing Car. Big Chris makes a mistake. (R)

Rotary given talk about bird work

CLAIRE Backshall from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) came to Borderland Rotary Club in Oswestry recently to tell members about her work as a volunteer promoting garden bird watch.

By conducting this weekly survey throughout the year, the BTO is able to monitor the trends in health and population of the garden birdlife in Britain.

Claire went on to describe the best form of feeding for garden birds.

She said bread fills their stomachs but is not very nutritious.

Nuts, fatballs and seeds are better. She said populations of favourite species have increased where nest boxes have been provided in suitable locations.

Claire Backshall can be contacted on c_backshall@hotmail.com

Fellowship group is set to meet again

MEMBERS of the Oswestry Group of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday next week.

The speaker on this occasion will be Barbara Maitra.

She will be recalling her life in India in the 1950s.

The fellowship organisation is a local group for government and other pensioners who are welcome to attend the meetings.

The meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month, organisers say.

They are held at the Wynnstay Hotel in Oswestry, starting at 10.30am after coffee.

There is an annual subscription for those pensioners who are not members of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship which is £10.

Further details about the group and its meetings in Oswestry can be obtained from Ruth Haile on (01691) 650993.

Caring Keith is a real hero say colleagues on hospital ward

A **HEALTHCARE** assistant has been recognised for his dedication to patients by being announced as the latest **Health Hero Award** winner at Oswestry's Orthopaedic Hospital.

Keith Glazebrook, who lives in St Martins, works on Oswald Ward in the hospital's new £15.1 million theatre and ward development.

He is a part of the team that looks after cancer and general surgery patients.

The 50-year-old was nominated by staff nurse Jo Healey and ward clerk Gail Richards, who both work with him on Oswald Ward.

Jo said: "He goes above and beyond his duties to help make patients have a comfortable stay."

"He is always very respectful and is kind, caring and compassionate."

"Every patient is fond of Keith and they are always full of praise."

"He always goes the extra mile, whether it is organising a haircut or making sure the patients have everything they need."

"Keith is a key member of the team and is always on hand with a cup of tea and a sympathetic ear."

"We are very lucky and proud to have Keith on Oswald Ward and he deserves recognition for his continued hard work."

Gail added: "Keith is a most fantastic man, kind, caring, hardworking and goes beyond the call of duty."

"Every day he is the same, very happy and always helpful."

"He truly deserves to get this award."

Keith was presented with his award by chief executive Mark Brandreth who announced the winner at the monthly board of directors meeting.

Humbled by the award, Keith said:



Keith Glazebrook receives his Health Hero certificate from hospital trust chief executive Mark Brandreth, with members of Oswald Ward and wider oncology team watching on during the presentation

"I'm very honoured. It's nice to know that people think a lot about what I do, but as I see it I'm just doing my job."

"I really enjoy it on Oswald Ward – the interaction with the patients makes it all worthwhile."

"It is an honour to look after them."

"I work with a great bunch of people who have made me welcome from the

moment I first joined. I'm so grateful to them for their support."

Mr Brandreth said: "Keith's commitment to his patients is an inspiration to us all."

"The respect he has from his colleagues comes across loud and clear in Jo and Gail's words."

"I want to thank him for the key contribution he is making to the de-

livery of outstanding patient care at the hospital, and I would also like to recognise the fabulous job being done by our Oswald Ward team."

"It is the newest ward in our hospital, and the ward manager Donna St John has done a terrific job of putting her team together. The consistently positive feedback they get from their patients is a testament to that."

Police chief is pleased with progress

A YEAR on from the elections, Mid Wales's Police and Crime Commissioner says he has taken significant steps towards reforming the force and delivering better services for communities.

Looking back on his first 12 months in office, Dyfed-Powys commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn said: "I have worked hard to repay the faith our communities put in me a year ago and will continue to do so."

"I am pleased with some of the progress made in the last 12 months, but I am not complacent."

"There continues to be significant challenges ahead, and a lot of further important work to be done." Since coming into office, the commissioner has appointed a new chief constable and leadership team. Mr Llywelyn says he and Chief Constable Mark Collins work closely and have started attending community meetings together to give the public a chance to discuss issues and challenge them face to face. Mr Llywelyn said he had also worked to secure the best financial deal for the region and met with the UK Policing Minister to discuss the future funding formula.

He said his decision to ask for a rise in the precept had not been taken lightly and followed consultations with communities that said they were willing to pay more for policing. The commissioner says the increase in budget will enable him to move ahead with plans to re-invest and implement the re-structuring and installation of CCTV across the Dyfed-Powys force area. Over the course of the 12 months, Mr Llywelyn says he has invested heavily into the Cyber Crime Unit, to tackle the ever increasing threat and harm caused by cyber crime, as well as securing eight new officers dedicated to protecting vulnerable people.

Mr Llywelyn added: "I am clear on my priorities, to keep communities safe, safeguarding the vulnerable, protecting communities from serious threats, and connecting with communities."

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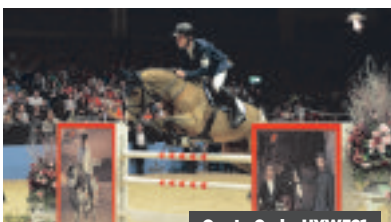
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Talented Seren hits right note

A **TEENAGER** who enjoyed success at the recent Oswestry Youth Music Festival has proven she can hit all the right notes after reaching the final of a prestigious competition.

Seren Devismes, aged 16, from Ellesmere College, beat off stiff competition from 300 students to land a place in the national finals of the Woodard Schools' Musician of the Year competition.

Only 30 candidates were selected for the final of the competition, which was held at the Elgar Concert Hall in Birmingham where brother of Andrew Lloyd-Webber, Julian, was adjudicating.

Seren chose to perform 'piangero la sorte mia' from the opera Giulio Cesare by Handel, in the senior category, which ranges from 15 to 18 years old.

She said: "I entered the competition, mainly as a slight test, to see whether all the effort that my teachers were putting into me was worth it."

"My aim was to get through the first round and my dream was to sing 'piangero la sorte mia', which meant I would have to get to the final."

Seren won a runner-up spot in the prestigious competition.

Her participation in the competition tops off an impressive year for Seren who had also received individual honours at the Oswestry Youth Music Festival, winning the vocal solo test piece.

Tony Coupe, who is director of music at the school, said of Seren's progress: "I am delighted by the scope of talent we have at the school and to see Seren at the Young Musician of the Year competition is inspiring."

"We are all committed to encouraging young talent and aim to offer them every opportunity to excel."



Seren Devismes has been enjoying musical success in recent months

For more information or to book, please call:

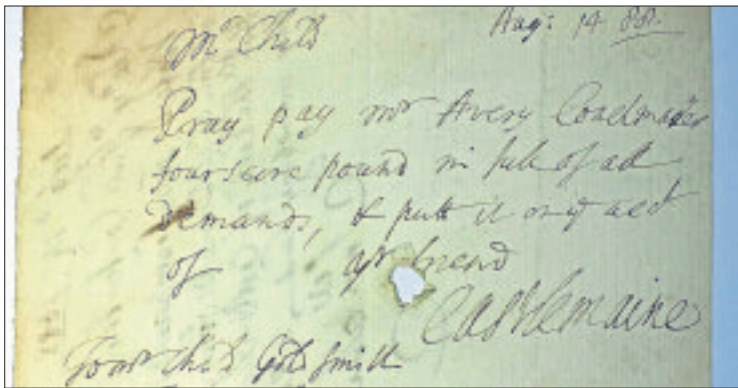
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Three 17th century cheques for sale at auction



The 17th century cheques were signed by Roger Palmer, 1st Earl of Castlemaine

THREE 17th century cheques signed by Roger Palmer, 1st Earl of Castlemaine and the grandson of the 1st Lord Powis, are set to go up for auction.

The cheques, which were issued by Child & Co bank in 1688, 1689 and 1690, are expected to fetch more than £100 each when they go under the hammer at fine art auctioneers Halls' fine pictures, silver, jewellery and coins auction in Shrewsbury on June 21.

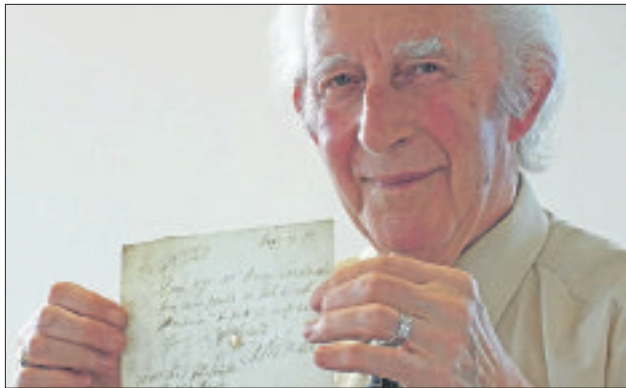
Roger (1634–1705) was married to Barbara

Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland, who was famously a mistress of Charles II and mothered five of the king's children.

A portrait of him hangs in Powis Castle at Welshpool and has been attributed to Venice's leading portrait painter at the time, Sebastiano Bombelli.

Roger's parents were Sir James Palmer and Catherine Hebert, daughter of the Earl of Powis.

He was elected MP for Windsor in 1660 and



Derek Ainsworth from Halls with one of the cheques signed by Roger Palmer

King Charles II made him Baron Limerick and Earl of Castlemaine in 1661, a humiliating title that was limited to his children by Barbara, which made it clear that the honour was for her services in the king's bedchamber rather than his personal recognition.

He became a member of the English Privy Council in 1686, following James II's accession to the throne and was appointed Ambassador to the Vatican. After the Revolution of 1688, Roger took refuge in Llanfyllin, but was ar-

rested in Oswestry and spent 16 months in the Tower until 1690 when he was freed on bail.

He was arrested and sent to the Tower again in 1696 after failing to attend the Irish Parliament but was released five months later. He died in Oswestry in 1705 at the age of 70 and was buried in the Herbert family vault at St Mary's Church, Welshpool. Derek Ainsworth, Halls' coins specialist, described the cheques as interesting and rare, explaining that few examples had survived since the 17th century.

£600k appeal launched to fund hospital sensory garden



The garden will be of benefit to patients at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital



Patients will be able to use the garden even if they are in wheelchairs or beds

Report by Sue Austin

A GARDEN for people with spinal injuries is to be built at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

The hospital has teamed up with gardening personality Bunny Guinness and the Horatio's Gardens project to create the sensory garden which will wrap around the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries.

An appeal to fund the £600,000-plus project is being launched at Chelsea Flower Show.

It will be the fourth Horatio's Garden to be created at hospitals in the UK.

Bunny Guinness said: "It is extremely exciting and a real privilege to be involved in bringing an Horatio's Garden to Oswestry." She said the aim was to disguise the hospital architecture and make a beautiful sanctuary for patients and their families.

Patients will be able to use the garden whether in wheelchairs or in their beds, with smooth, wide pathways and even electricity points for equipment.

There will be a large garden room so that patients can enjoy the garden whatever the weather and there will be a greenhouse and raised beds so they can be involved in growing herbs and flowers. The design will include creating areas of privacy for patients and visitors. Janet Johnson, who has been in the unit for several weeks after falling at home, said to be able to go outside in the fresh air and smell and touch the flowers would be wonderful.

The hospital's league of friends has pledged to raise a certain amount of the money needed for the garden and a public fundraising appeal has also been launched.

People who want to support Horatio's Garden in Oswestry can go online and visit www.horatiogarden.org.uk/oswestryappeal.



Bunny Guinness is supporting the initiative



A £600,000 appeal has been launched to fund the sensory garden

Fear fracking threat could soon return

ANTI-FRACKING campaigners say they could be forced to restart the fight amid claims North Shropshire may once again face the threat of gas drilling.

The area could be one of nearly 200 constituencies to face the threat of "fast-track drilling" under plans put forward in the Conservative party manifesto.

It comes just over a year after highly controversial plans were finally scrapped to test drill for coal bed methane in Dudley Heath near Ellesmere, following campaigns and protests against the proposals. But according to Friends of the Earth, the North Shropshire constituency could soon face the new threat of test drilling without planning permission under plans revealed in the Conservative manifesto.

The manifesto plans mean that companies could drill and sample a well – often the first step towards full-scale fracking – under "permitted development", without any planning permission.

The party's plans could also mean that full fracking applications would be considered by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol alone, rather than the local authority.

However, the manifesto does say there will need to be public support for the schemes, saying local people will benefit financially.

Chris Hesketh, leader of campaign group Frack Free Dudley Heath, said that while he does not think it will come to it, the campaign would "absolutely" be re-started to fight any plans for fracking in the area. He said: "There is a very strong willingness to stand up and challenge this. I don't think it will come to this, I think the industry will implode of its own accord."

Free canalside concert for all

A FREE waterside concert will be held to promote the restoration of the Montgomery Canal.

Llanymynech Wharf near Oswestry will be ringing to the sounds of choirs, bands, string quartets and drama on Sunday.

Musicians on the Wharf will feature performances from seven groups on stage between 2pm and 5pm. The free outdoor concert has been promoted by the Canal & River Trust, which manages 2,000 miles of the nation's waterways, as part of the Heritage Lottery funded project to restore the Montgomery Canal.

The Odd Bods, Morton Choir, Café Lola, Penndragon, Oswestry String Quartet, Roleplay Theatre and local youngsters promise to keep the audience entertained for three hours in the idyllic rural setting next to the canal. The wharf visitor centre will be open and refreshments will be available. Sylvia Edwards, Montgomery Canal community development officer with the trust, said: "This is a marvellous opportunity to showcase local talent in this beautiful waterside location. It is one of a number of free community activities being organised as part of the canal restoration project. We want people to get involved with their local waterway and what better way than through the power of music."

Market marks anniversary

A COUNTRY market will celebrate its 60th birthday this month.

The Oswestry country market began life as the Women's Institute market in the 1950s.

Today it remains a popular draw for shoppers. The market is open every Wednesday from 8.30am in the Oswestry Memorial Hall.

On Wednesday next week the traders will celebrate the anniversary with a celebration cake.

There will be a ceremonial cake cutting at 11am when visitors can pop in and enjoy a slice and a free cup of tea.

Member Helen Foreman said: "Come along and have a chat with our members old and new and look through our exhibition of photographs spanning the years which will be on display each Wednesday in June. The country markets grew out of the WI markets, and although now a separate organisation, it maintains a reputation for offering good local products from small producers."

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62 HYUNDAI I30 TOURER EST. 1.7 CRDI, GREY, SERVICE HISTORY 20 ROAD TAX 39K.....	£7,250	
13 CITROEN DS3 1.6E HDI, AIRDREAM D STYLE PLUS WHITE WITH BLACK ROOF, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL, F.S.H 0 ROAD TAX 23K.....	£7,250	
11 POLO SEL Tdi 90 1.6.5 DR., SILVER, AC, ALLOY WHEELS ONE OWN, F.S.H 30 ROAD TAX 55K.....	£6,995	
62 KIA SOUL 2 CRDI, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 32K.....	£6,850	
11 SKODA FABIA ELEGANCE AUTOMATIC TSI HATCHBACK, BEIGE, SERVICE HISTORY 39K.....	£6,195	
10 V/W GOLF S 1.6 TDI, 5 DOOR, MET. BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 30 ROAD TAX 63K.....	£5,995	
12 SUZUKI SPLASH SZ4, BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 30 ROAD TAX 10K.....	£5,795	
09 FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC, 5 DOOR, MET. BLUE, 15K.....	£5,495	
61 CITROEN C4 VTR+HDI 91, BLUE 20 ROAD TAX 49K.....	£5,495	
09 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 53K.....	£5,184	
10 VAUXHALL CORSA AUTOMATIC 1.4 SE 5 DOOR, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, PART LEATHER SEATS, SERVICE HISTORY 19K.....	£4,995	
09 CITROEN C3 PICASSO EXCLUSIVE 1.6 HDI, GREY, PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY 51K.....	£4,995	
12 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 1.2, 5 DOOR, MET. RED, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 30 ROAD TAX 42K.....	£4,850	
10 CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE HDI, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL 20 ROAD TAX 51K.....	£4,795	
61 FIAT 500 LOUNGE, RED, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., SUN ROOF, SERVICE HISTORY 30 ROAD TAX 56K.....	£4,695	
61 FORD KA 1.2 ZETEC, START/STOP, METALIC RED, SERVICE HISTORY 30 ROAD TAX 36K.....	£4,495	
58 HONDA JAZZ I-VTECH EX, BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 52K.....	£4,495	
10 SUZUKI SX4 SZ4, BLUE, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, ROOF BARS, SERV. HIST. 57K.....	£4,495	
58 VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 1.4, BLACK, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY 46K.....	£3,995	
08 FORD FOCUS ZETEC, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 75K.....	£3,795	
08 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 TCE DYNAMIQUE, 3 DOOR, RED, SERVICE HISTORY 41K.....	£3,695	
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56 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 58K.....	£2,995	
59 CITROEN C2 VTR, GREEN, SERVICE HISTORY 50K.....	£2,495	
54 SUZUKI IGNIS GLX 1.5 4GRIP 4 WHEEL DRIVE, BLUE, ONE OWNER 84K.....	£1,895	
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55 CITROEN C3.....		DUE IN
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55 BMW K1200S, BLUE, BMW LUGGAGE, SERVICE HISTORY 41K.....	£3,695	
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V JAGUAR XK8 Low Mileage, Silver, MUST BE SEEN.....	£90A

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64 CITROEN DS3 STYLE Plus HDI Convertible, Deep Plum Metallic, Alloys, Low Mileage must be seen.....	£9795
11 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC Black, 58K.....	£4495
06 VW JETTA SE TDI 140, Black Service History.....	£3795
07 BMW 116 ISE 77k, Service History.....	£4395
06 BMW X3 2.0 DIESEL Black.....	£5175
63 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.4 GLAM, Winter Pack.....	SOLD
61 VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE 1.2 Red, lady ownerOnly.....	£3995
06 SEAT LEON SE CR TDI ECO, Silver, Diesel.....	£4995
60 VAUXHALL CORSA Ecoflex Silver, 58K.....	£3995
59 CITROEN C3 AIRDREAM + HDI Diesel, Cheap Road Tax.....	£3595
09 FIAT 500 POP 1.2, White.....	£3895
09 CITROEN C3 RHYTHM 1.4 HDI Diesel, Black.....	£2195
58 BMW 118 SE Diesel, Grey Metallic.....	£5595
56 TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT 1.3, Silver, Beautiful Condition, MP3 Player.....	£3175
56 VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic.....	£2895
06 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA Active 1.6, low mileage, beautiful car.....	£3125

54 FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr. Silver.....	£2495
CONVERTIBLES	
04 VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT, Silver.....	£1295
03 FORD STREET KA Blue Convertible.....	£1795

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08 HONDA CRV 2.0 ES V-Tec AUTO, Red.....	£4995
60 CITROEN BERLINGO 1.6 HDI Enterprise, Blue.....	£3995
05 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT, DIESEL Silver.....	SOLD
04 RENAULT KANGOO TREKKA 4x4.....	£1395
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52 HONDA CRV 2.0, Silver.....	£1750

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MOTURING

ROAD TEST



The new car is shorter, wider and lower and more fun to drive than the outgoing model

Moving swiftly on as Suzuki on up

By Graham Breeze

SUZUKI SWIFT, FROM £10,999 TO £14,499

The most successful motor manufacturers know exactly when to relaunch their best sellers – so it's no real surprise to find there's a new Suzuki Swift on the way.

Swift has always been the company's best seller, both globally and in the UK and Suzuki bosses think the latest offering just on sale will do even better.

Early impressions are that this arrival will really boost Suzuki's bid to gain 10 per cent of the B-segment market because it's a compact, agile supermini, packed to the roof with the latest and best technology.

Suzuki has been careful not to take too many risks and while the new car is shorter, wider and lower and more fun to drive than the outgoing model you cannot miss the evolution of Swift DNA.

Designers were tasked with the production of new hatchback styling without damaging the successful concept of Swift. First impressions suggest they have done exactly what they were asked.

Enhanced

The new Swift rests on a new generation platform that Suzuki has Called "Heartect" ensuring enhanced vehicle performance by being lighter and even more rigid than the outgoing predecessor.

The model arriving in the UK will come in five-door format only and has been created specifically for the European market, recognising the different demands of drivers worldwide. It's an all-new model from floor to roof but is still unmistakably a Swift.

The car may be lower but some clever design trickery means lower seating levels and identical headroom for front seat passengers, though in the rear there's an extra 23mm.

Behind the wheel is a comfortable place to be with a neat and tidy fascia boasting sporty white accents and satin chrome throughout the cockpit, working with a basic black theme to create a high contrast interior spec, though some rivals will claim more quality. The instrument cluster offers either colour or monochrome LCD in the centre with a coolant temperature and fuel gauge incorporated within the two main gauges.



There's a neat and tidy fascia with sport white accents

There are three models to choose from, SZ3, SZ-T and SZ5.

The SZ3 comes with a 1.2 Dualjet manual unit, 15 inch steel wheels, LED daytime lighting, DAB digital radio, Bluetooth connectivity, four speakers, air conditioning, a leather steering wheel, front electric windows and privacy glass.

SZ5 gets a choice of 1.0 boosterjet and 1.2 dualjet options, dual sensor brake support, Sat Nav, two tweeters, LED headlamps with high beam assist, rear LED lamps, adaptable cruise control, keyless entry, 16 inch polished alloys, electrically folding mirrors, telescopic and adjustable steering column (disappointing to find this is not standard), rear electric windows and a rear parking camera.

It's hard to imagine but the Swift is even better on the road than before. The notorious mountainous roads of the south of France and the 1.0litre boosterjet on test didn't once give the driver cause for concern, despite being pushed to the limit.

There was an impressive top speed of 121mph, 0-62mph in 10.6seconds and CO2 emissions of just 97g/km. And you just have to be impressed by combined fuel consumption figures of 65.7mpg.

So will the new Swift be a success? Absolutely yes.

Suzuki is a company on the up in the UK, just look at their amazing 48 per cent month on month sales growth in February and a fleet market just emerging for this newcomer.

Swift and Vitara continue to grow as brand leaders and the very impressive Ignis will soon join them at the top of the sales charts after receiving glowing accolades across the UK.

Suzuki has sold 127,000 cars since taking on the UK market, 38,167 of them last year alone. I expect them to smash their 2017 target of an eight per cent increase and Swift will lead the way.

Prices on the road are priced somewhere between Ignis and Baleno – meaning it will remain a very competitive option.

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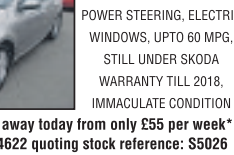
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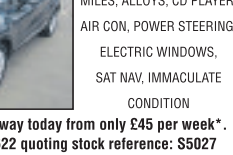
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MOTORING

Quietly impressive Hyundai i30 is a smooth operator . . .

By Ian Donaldson

You may have noticed that diesel is a dirty word these days and driving one marks you as a serial polluter who simply doesn't care about the air we breathe.

True or not – and modern diesels are clean enough not to blush at an approaching town – there's a swell of opinion against them that isn't going away.

So the car makers are sensibly making the alternative to diesel as attractive as possible. Without adding expensive battery power, that means turning back to good old petrol.

Take the new Hyundai i30, designed and built in Europe (Germany and the Czech Republic, to be precise) and aimed squarely at cars like the VW Golf and Ford Focus. So it had better be good.

Things start off well with a handsome car that's lighter than the old one and packed with the sort of technology a modern smartphone user takes for granted.

And under the bonnet of this particular i30 beats a new engine. Indeed, a new petrol engine that weighs less, produces more power and fewer pollutants than before and after a week on test showed 47mpg on the clear trip computer.

The diesel i30 would do better than that, of course, but I'd wager not better enough to persuade too many buyers to find the extra £250 needed to change fuels in this i30.

The least expensive new i30 also comes with petrol power, in the shape of a three-cylinder 1.0 litre engine and costs £16,995. This S-spec base car has alloy wheels, DAB radio, Bluetooth and electric windows all round. So not so basic at all.

At the other end of the price scale you find the £24,745 i30 in Premium SE trim and using the 1.6 litre diesel and driving through an automatic gearbox.

This one simply drips with kit, including bigger alloys, dual zone climate control, leather trim, a huge glass sunroof, sat nav and a heated steering wheel. The test car's Premium (non SE) grade felt as though it lacked little, enjoying electric adjustment of the driver's seat, heated seats for driver and front passenger, rear parking camera and a nicely clear satellite navigation system.

Safety features across the whole new i30 range include lane departure warning, forward collision warning, autonomous emergency braking and hill start assist that keeps the brakes on for a second or two as your foot moves from brake to accelerator. Slip into the spacious cabin (there's a generous sized boot too) and you'll face a dashboard that looks neat and modern, if not especially stylish. Clear graphics and a logical layout are pluses and it all feels properly put together.

Hyundai tested its newcomer round the famous Nurburgring race track in Germany but thankfully resisted the temptation to turn this family car into a pretend racer (leave that to others and their GT models). The result is a car that feels sharp enough at the wheel to enjoy on twisty roads, while you know deep down the i30 really wants to slow down a bit – all the better to show off a ride that stays comfy on just about any surface.

Give it a smooth piece of road and this latest petrol-powered i30 becomes so hushed you might be in a limousine. Quietly impressive, you might say.

HYUNDAI I30, FROM £16,995



It's a handsome car and packed with the technology a smartphone user takes for granted



There's a generous sized boot and the cabin is also spacious

Ending costly car rental experiences

We've all heard the stories, and even experienced bad and unethical practices on holiday car rental.

Now a new start-up car and rental comparison has been set up to help put an end to those practices that have been going on for years and years.

With summer looming and many of us Brits preparing the finer details of our holidays, including our car rental, now might be a good time to take a look at www.MyTripCar.co.uk

It may just put an end to nightmarish – and often stressing and costly – car rental experiences, and ensure that the customer's expectations are exceeded.

What differs MyTripCar from the rest? It simply tells the truth, it doesn't hide any costs, it gives the real final price from the first moment, and clearly states what is the credit card hold (and options on how to reduce it), and only offers the car rental companies' official insurance (not selling worthless insurance like others do that is not accepted or recognised when ones goes to pick up the car).



The comparison interface on MyTripCar

"We essentially provide the user with all the information he or she needs to be able to decide the best option for them including waiting times, pick-up location, included mileage, credit card holds, and costs of all extras he or she may wish to

add," explained Giles Bones who helped set up the site.

"And we do so in a clear user-friendly manner to help him or her understand the process.

"What MyTripCar offers which is different

MYTRIPCAR

to others car rental comparison sites, is essentially the level of transparency and the way in which we present the information to the user.

"We classify car rentals by car types in a simple and easy-to-understand way that means the user can see how much a particular car will cost in each of the car rental companies where there is availability.

"Also we clearly show what the insurance options will mean to the car rental cost, both with the basic insurance, as well as the car company's official insurance.

"Unlike other car rentals, we do not offer our own insurance, so as not to enter into conflict with the car rental company, which is sadly what happens with all other car rental comparison sites."

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Donn Wood A.....	8	6	39	0
Newport A.....	8	5	37	0
Madeley C C A.....	8	4	36	0
St Georges A.....	8	4	32	0
Bowling A.....	8	4	29	0
Brosley A.....	8	4	28	0
Highley A.....	8	4	26	0
Bylet A.....	8	3	26	0
Alscott A.....	8	3	23	0
Bridgnorth A.....	8	1	21	0
Albington A.....	8	2	20	0
Shifnal A.....	8	1	19	0

Division 2	P	W	L	D
Much Wenlock.....	8	6	45	0
Sinclair A.....	8	6	42	0
Maddocks A.....	8	6	36	0
Charlton A.....	8	4	32	0
Horseshay A.....	8	4	31	0
Alscott A.....	8	4	29	0
S J Bayley C.....	8	3	27	0
Wrock Wood A.....	8	3	26	0
Bylet B.....	8	2	25	0
S J Bayley B.....	8	2	22	0

Division 3	P	W	L	D
Donn Wood B.....	8	7	46	0
Red Squirrel.....	8	5	38	0
Bridgnorth B.....	8	5	36	0
Bowling B.....	8	4	35	0
Bridgnorth C.....	8	4	35	0
St Georges B.....	8	4	33	0
Tranchar A.....	8	3	33	0
Madeley C C B.....	8	5	33	0
Alscott B.....	8	3	29	0
Shifnal B.....	8	3	28	0
Wrock Wood B.....	8	3	28	0
Highley B.....	8	3	27	0
Edmond.....	8	2	25	0
Albington B.....	8	2	22	0

Division 4	P	W	L	D
Donn Wood C.....	8	7	47	0
Mortimer.....	8	6	42	0
Sinclair B.....	8	6	38	0
Maddocks B.....	8	6	36	0
Bridgnorth D.....	8	4	31	0
Gray Square.....	8	4	31	0
Newport D.....	8	3	28	0
Horseshay B.....	8	3	26	0
S J Bayley D.....	8	3	24	0
Bowling C.....	8	3	24	0
Sinclair C.....	8	1	15	0
Newport E.....	8	0	13	0
Worfield.....	8	0	11	0

Results

Division 1: Madeley C C A (125), Bridgnorth A 1 (95), Newport A 7 (124), Shifnal A 1 (91), Albington A 6 (117), Bowring A (90), W Horse Husc A (115), Alscott A 2 (95), Brosley A 6 (114), Bylet A 2 (95), Highley A 6 (111), St Georges A 2 (90), Donn Wood A 1 (84), S J Bayley A 7 (122).

Division 2: Sinclair A (126), Madeley C C B (104), Much Wenlock 7 (118), Bridgnorth B (85), S J Bayley C (117), Newport C (84), Bylet B (108), Wrock Wood A (110), Wrock Wood B (105), Chelmarsh 1 (59), S J Bayley D (104), Horseshay A 6 (110), George A (109), Madocks B (120), Bowring B (105), Wrock Wood B 4 (104), Donn Wood B (110), Trenchar A 3 (97), Edmond 1 (100), Red Squirrel 7 (112).

Division 3: Shifnal C 5 (117), S J Bayley D 3 (92), Bridgnorth D 7 (116), Bowring C 7 (99), S J Bayley E 2 (99), Sinclair B 6 (102), Horseshay B 2 (87), Donn Wood C 6 (103), Newport D 13 (122), Madocks B (120), Gray Square 2 (73), Mortimer 6 (117).

Wellington Winter Dominos League

P	W	L	D	F	P
Horseshoes.....	28	17	1147	105	71
Park Hotel A.....	28	17	1134	118	65
Mail Shovel A.....	28	14	1128	123	61
Woodstock.....	28	13	1122	133	54
Mail Shovel B.....	28	12	16121	131	51
Capital Webb.....	28	12	16120	132	51
Park Hotel B.....	28	11	17116	136	46
Railway.....	28	11	17116	136	46

Tanners Claret Shropshire Bowling League

Shropshire Division 1	P	W	L	D	P
Elephant & Castle.....	8	6	2	0	71
Ludlow Castle.....	8	6	2	0	68
Prince Hotel A.....	8	5	3	0	67
Telepost.....	8	5	3	0	67
Meole Brace A.....	8	5	3	0	65
Castledelfs.....	8	5	3	0	63
Battlefield.....	8	4	4	0	56
POBWC.....	8	3	5	0	47
Harwood.....	7	4	3	0	45
Abbeey A.....	7	4	3	0	45
Pontesbury A.....	7	3	4	0	44
Whittington.....	7	1	6	0	35
George.....	7	2	5	0	35
Ifon.....	7	2	5	0	34

Shropshire Division 2

P	W	L	D	P
Crescent.....	8	7	1	0
Bishops Castle.....	8	7	1	0
OSBC.....	8	6	2	0
Meole Brace V.....	8	6	2	0
Craven Arms.....	8	6	2	0
Prince Hotel B.....	8	4	4	0
Bicton A.....	8	5	3	0
Greenfields Social A.....	8	4	4	0
Union.....	8	3	5	0
Wem CC.....	8	2	6	0
Onon Village.....	8	2	6	0
Bayston Hill A.....	8	0	8	0

Shropshire Division 3

P	W	L	D	P
Hadnal.....	5	5	0	51
Church Club.....	6	4	2	46
Craven Arms.....	6	3	2	45
Burway.....	6	3	2	45
Sevenside St Julians.....	6	4	2	41
Abbeey B.....	6	3	2	37
Albton B.....	5	1	4	32
Wem USC.....	5	2	3	30
Bicton B.....	5	1	4	24
Worthing & Brockton.....	5	0	5	15

Shropshire Division 4

P	W	L	D	P
Pontesbury A.....	5	5	1	45
Prince Hotel A.....	5	5	1	45
Castledelfs B.....	5	5	1	45
Telepost A.....	5	5	2	40

Crescent A.....	5	4	1	0	39
Harwood A.....	5	3	2	0	31
OSBC B.....	5	3	2	0	30
Don Village.....	5	4	2	0	28
Abbeey A.....	5	6	2	0	25
Meole Brace A.....	5	5	0	0	18
St Julians.....	5	5	0	0	14

Shrewsbury Division 2	P	W	L	D	P
Battlefield A.....	6	5	1	0	50
Union.....	6	4	2	0	46
Pontesbury B.....	6	4	2	0	43
Meole Brace V.....	6	4	2	0	39
Bicton A.....	6	3	3	0	39
Greenfields Social A.....	6	3	3	0	37
Prince Hotel B.....	6	3	3	0	36
Abbeey B.....	6	3	3	0	35
Battlefield B.....	6	3	3	0	34
Cochet Arms.....	6	1	4	1	26
Albert Road BC.....	6	1	4	1	26
Bayston Hill A.....	6	0	6	0	16

Shrewsbury Division 3	P	W	L	D	P
Monkmoor A.....	6	5	1	0	48
POBWC A.....	6	5	1	0	40
Frankwell.....	6	4	2	0	40
Bagley A.....	6	3	3	0	40
Oxon.....	6	4	2	0	38
Meole Brace B.....	6	4	2	0	36
Telepost B.....	6	3	3	0	36
Dorrington.....	6	3	3	0	34
Castledelfs C.....	6	3	3	0	33
OSBC A.....	6	3	3	0	30
Bicton B.....	6	2	4	0	29
Harwood B.....	6	2	4	0	26

Shrewsbury Division 4	P	W	L	D	P
POBWC B.....	6	5	1	0	52
Elephant & Castle.....	6	6	0	0	51
Greenfields Social B.....	6	5	1	0	49
Pontesbury C.....	6	4	2	0	49
Meole Brace C.....	6	5	1	0	49
Crescent B.....	6	5	1	0	49
Pontesbury D.....	6	4	2	0	48
Bagley B.....	6	1	5	0	25
Bayston Hill B.....	6	1	5	0	25
Worthing & Brockton.....	6	2	4	0	24
Sevenside.....	6	2	4	0	24
Monkmoor B.....	6	0	6	0	18

Flowfit Ludlow & District Bowls League	P	W	L	D	P
Burway.....	7	7	0	0	14
Gray Square.....	7	7	0	0	14
Ludlow Castle.....	7	6	1	0	10
Cronefield.....	7	4	0	3	8
Conover.....	7	4	0	3	8
Clebury.....	7	4	0	3	8
Temesters.....	7	6	2	0	4
Linney.....	7	6	2	0	4
Stokesay.....	7	6	2	0	4
Bylet.....	7	1	0	6	2
Chelmarsh.....	7	1	0	6	2
Mortimer.....	7	1	0	6	2

Oswestry & District Bowling League

Division 1	P	W	L	D	P
Chirk AAA A.....	7	1	4	1	37
Craig Valley A.....	7	4	2	1	118
Craig Valley B.....	7	4	2	1	118
Liangleng A.....	7	6	5	1	141
Liangleng B.....	7	6	5	1	141
Chirk AAA B.....	7	6	3	1	126
Whittington A.....	7	6	3	1	126
Whittington B.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston A.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston B.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston C.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston D.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston E.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston F.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston G.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston H.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston I.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston J.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston K.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston L.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston M.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston N.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston O.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston P.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston Q.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston R.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston S.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston T.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston U.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston V.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston W.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston X.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston Y.....	7	6	3	1	126
Johnston Z.....	7	6	3	1	126

Division 2	P	W	L	D	P
Cymwyd A.....	7	5	2	0	132
Ellesmere A.....	7	4	3	0	82
Church A.....	7	4	3	0	82
Weston Rhyn A.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington A.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington B.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington C.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington D.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington E.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington F.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington G.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington H.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington I.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington J.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington K.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington L.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington M.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington N.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington O.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington P.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington Q.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington R.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington S.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington T.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington U.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington V.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington W.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington X.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington Y.....	7	4	3	0	82
Whittington Z.....	7	4	3	0	82

Division 3	P	W	L	D	P
Craig Valley C.....	7	5	2	0	161
Johnston A.....	7	5	2	0	140
Johnston B.....	7	5	2	0	140
Johnston C.....	7	5	2	0	140
Johnston D.....	7	5	2	0	140
Johnston E.....	7	5	2	0	140
Johnston F.....	7	5	2	0	140
Johnston G.....	7	5	2	0	140
Johnston H.....	7	5	2	0	140

Agreement is reached over practice for Merit finals

COMMON sense has prevailed in the dispute over Shropshire's next senior County Championships match and the County Merit finals being held at the same place.

The choice of Pontesbury's Nags Head green for the home leg of the county match against Wales this weekend and the Merit finals on Sunday, June 25, caused immediate debate about practice on it amongst the bowlers involved.

That's because four of the players in the Shropshire home 12 - Callum Wright, Colin Beaman, Glyn Herbert and Clay Flatley - have also qualified for the County Merit finals to be part of President Mike Caddick's big day.

And that means they are actively encouraged to practise on the Pontesbury green in order to be ready for the Welsh on Sunday, giving them an obvious unfair advantage over the other 28 Merit finals qualifiers.

Matters came to a head in the wake of a meeting of the County Executive last Monday when the draw for the Merit finals was conducted by new county competition secretary Mike Potter.

Dave Burton, one of four Hanwood bowlers to have made the last 32 of the Merit, was quick to make the 'unfair practice point' to county officials - and they have taken decisive action, supported by the host club.

They have decided that all bowlers in the Merit finals field will be able to practise at Pontesbury, but only during the times the green is available for county team members to be on it.

Privileges

A county association statement said: "We thank Pontesbury BC for generously offering all Senior Merit qualifying players the same privileges as the county senior team to practise on the green up to Saturday, June 3.

"As things stand, practice is open at all times for the county team and Merit qualifiers apart from the following times - 6.30pm onwards on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, and 1.30 to 5.30 on Thursday due to league matches.

"The bowling club ask players to respect the wishes and an agreement established with the Nags Head pub to use the parking area at the side of the main pub car park from Monday to Thursday but those visiting from Friday to Sunday should please park at the sports centre across the road."

It means there are no excuses for Merit finalists being unfamiliar with the vagaries of one of the Shropshire team's banker greens now.

The other big talking point, Merit-wise, from last week's Executive meeting, was that prize money levels may be cut now there is no sponsor of the event.

The withdrawal of Flowfit has left county chiefs looking to cut their financial cloth accordingly and 141 entries for this year's Merit at £5 each have produced a total of £705, making it very unlikely that there will be a £300 first prize this year.

But the honour of being county champion, lifting the priceless Charles Beddard Trophy and the ticket to the Champion of Champions is more than enough compensation.

In the actual draw, reigning champion Wayne Rogers came out of the hat against Burton - so the Hanwood man will need to take full advantage of the fairness in practice!

The full County Merit finals day draw for Sunday, June 25 (11am start) is:

Top half: Mark Shore, Hanwood v Phil Lyttie, Hanwood; Paul Williams, Castlefields v Tom Rhodes, St Georges; Dave Burton, Hanwood v Wayne Rogers, Burway; Peter Bound, Meole Brace v Jamie Taylor, Bytet; Jamie King, Bowring v Andrew Moes, Chester Road; Rob Fuller, Bytet v Adam Jones, Castlefields; Josh Bradburn, Bowring v Glyn Herbert, Castlefields; Rich Lawson, Bowring v Clay Flatley, St Georges.
Bottom half: Dave Ellison, Hanmer v Andy Duckett, Castlefields; Tony Gamson, Wrockwaine Wood v Dave Gourlay, Bridgewater; Charlie Weaver, Moore v Colin Beaman, Meole Brace; Ian Gaut, St Georges v Glyn Picknell, St Georges; Gary Beff, Moore v Glyn Wellings, Hanwood; Sam Millward, Newport v Martin Gaut, Wrockwaine Wood; Callum Wright, Castlefields v Craig Baugh, Sir John Bayley; Keiran Buckley, Bowring v Nick Lewis, Burway.



Oliver Carvell powered to a double success, Telford AC's Josh Davies Telford (middle) in the long jump and (right) John Mason (left) in the 800m

Athletes hit form as records tumble

ATHLETICS by Paul Sanderson

OFFICIALS were reaching for the record books during a superb day of action in the Shropshire Athletic Association Track and Field Championships.

More than 400 athletes took part in the event at Telford Stadium where 13 new championship-best performances and National Grade 1 displays were achieved.

Meeting organiser Richard Eastman was delighted with the quality of the performances on a day when the blustery weather conditions made life difficult for the athletes.

Shrewsbury High School's Danielle Hales once again showed her class on the track with another eye-catching display.

Hales, who is ranked number one in the country in the under-15 girls' 75m hurdles, clocked 11.30 seconds as she comfortably won her heat before taking the final in 11.4.

Her heat time was the fastest ever run in the championships, beating the previous best which was set by Katie Challenor in 1993.

Hales also won the long jump with a leap of 4.87 metres.

Telford Athletic Club's Ellie Vernon threw a four-metre personal best in the under-17 women's javelin on her way to a Grade 1 and a new championship best, eclipsing the record set by Sian Lax in 1995.

Improved

Bridgnorth AC's Oliver Carvell, who was second in the English Schools 1500m championships at Gateshead last year, won the 800m and 1500m.

But it was the 800m where he set a new championship record of one minute 56.8 seconds, beating a time that was set way back in 1983.

His team-mate Josh Roura also bettered the previous best in the under-15 boys' 300m, running 37.9 while Dan Galloway, another Bridgnorth athlete, improved the under-13 boys' 1500m record that he set himself last year as he ran a six-second personal of 4.42.2.

Chloe Speake and Kitty Schooles-Pryce, from Shrewsbury AC, both ran 11.6 in the 70m hurdles - a National Grade 1 which equalled the under-13 girls' 70m hurdles time set six years ago by their former team-mate Hollie Williamson.

Telford AC's Tegan Stoddart also got her name in the record books as she matched the under-13 girls' high jump best of 1.45m, which is also a National Grade 1.

Other championship-best performances were set in the masters age group where Rachel Coupe clocked 2.34.7 in the 800m and Pat Higgins struck twice with 8.34m in the shot and 14.02m in the discus.

The men also got in on the act as Telford AC's Dave Garrott set a new triple jump record of



Oswestry Olympians' Edward Ellis Cooper in the long jump at Oakengates. ■ Pics: Richard Dawson.

8.36m and Shrewsbury's Stephen Buttler landed an impressive effort of 5.23m in the long jump.

Other Grade 1 performances came from Telford AC's Francesca Garrott, who threw the under-20 women's javelin 40.58m, while her team-mate Amy Bowen also ran a Grade 1 time in winning the senior women's 100m in 12.2.

Anna Bates (Trafford AC) gained a Grade 1 in winning the senior women's triple jump with a distance of 11.84m, and she also won the long jump.

Liam Rawlings, who had such a good cross country season has started the track season in fine style as he ran a massive Grade 1 personal best of 4.13.5, over seven seconds faster than ever before a time that should put him among some of the fastest in the country.

Niall Price, also from Bridgnorth and a member of the Wolverhampton and Bilston club, equalled his personal best of 11.1 (Grade 1) in winning the under 17 men's 100m , and double up by taking the 200m.

Several athletes went home with multiple gold medals, including James Milburn, who lives near Craven Arms and competes for Kidderminster and Stourport. He won four under-20 events, taking the gold in the 110m hurdles, triple jump, high jump and discus.

Patrick McBride (Shrewsbury AC) won the senior men's 110m hurdles, shot and 400m hurdles, while Jake Akindutire (Thomas Adams School) triumphed in the under-17 men's long jump, triple jump and

400m hurdles. Telford AC's Rory Bristoll won the under-13 boys' javelin, shot and discus and there were golds for Hollie Williamson (Wrekin College) in the 100m hurdles, long jump and high jump.

Emily McBride (Shrewsbury AC) took the senior women's 100m hurdles, 400m hurdles and high jump.

Double gold medalists were: Sarah Mackiness (Telford AC, senior women's 800m and 1500m), Kim Carter (Telford AC, senior men's 100m and 200m), Tino Durnmettt (Telford AC, senior men's 100m and 200m), Charles Thurstan (Birchfield Harriers, senior mens 400m and 800m), Lucy Asson (Wrekin College, under-20 women's 100m and 200m), Hannah Cocille (Wrekin College, under-20 women's discus and shot), Cain Smith (Thomas Adams School, under-17 men's discus and shot), Andrew Martin (Adams, under-17 men's 100m hurdles and triple jump, Lucy Elcock (Bridgnorth AC, under-17 women's 100m and 300m), Bethan Evans (Thomas Adams, under-17 women's triple jump and shot), Edith Charlesworth (Wenlock Olympians, under-15 girls' 1500m and 300m), Tobie Watson (Idsal School, under-15 boys' 80m hurdles and high jump), Oliver Maddox (Telford AC, under-13 boys' 200m and high jump), Cameron Smith (Bridgnorth AC, under-13 boys' 100m and long jump), Zoe Gilbody (Bridgnorth AC, under-11 girls' 60m and 600m), Reuben Green (Shrewsbury AC, under-11 boys' 60m and 150m).

The Shropshire Schools Track and Field Championships will be held at the Telford Stadium on Saturday, June 10. It is open to any student from Year 8 and above in a Shropshire school or college. Entry forms have been sent to all schools in Shropshire and Telford.

The Shropshire Schools Championships, for Year 7 and Year 8 students, is on Saturday, July 1 at the Shrewsbury track.

Contact Shropshire Schools secretary Paul Sanderson at jspsanderson_tac@hotmail.com for details.

Latest golf returns from Shropshire golf clubs

HAWKSTONE PARK

Medal Winners Cup & Monthly Medal & Jim Eardley Qualifiers Division 1: Mark Harrington 80-11c=59; David Greaves 84-14c=70; Paul Corfield 84-11c=73; Division 2: Andrew Hayes-Jones 85-18c=67; Miles Meredith 83-16c=67; Andrew Fielding 86-19c=67.

Medal Winner's Cup Winner: Brian Lister. **May Dalmyle Salver:** S. Jones/R. Jones 75.0; A. Jones/N. Jones 77.0; D. Hiles/P. Hiles 78.0.

Club Men's Stableford Division 1: Richard Aston 37pts; Wayne Hollinshead 36pts; Mark Harrington 36pts; Division 2: Richard Jones-Roberts 35pts; Clive Tinsley 34pts; Ian Bailey 34pts.

Ladies' Gray Cup: Sharon Jones 79 +72=151; Molly Moore 76+77=153; Julie Wales 77+80=157.

May Medal: Hazel Ruscoe net 75; Louisa Goff net 75; Molly Moore net 78.

Medal Winners Cup & Sub Medal: Kath Gleave net 77; Sharon Jones net 77; Melissa Hughes net 78.

Seniors' Stableford Division 1: R Jones Roberts 35; Ron Gleave 35; Chris Cooper 34; Division 2: David Brierley 34; Clive Tinsley 33; David Samuel 30.

Juniors' May Medal: Thomas Welch 89-20c=69; Ted Bache 96-22c=74.

HENLLE PARK

John Osman Cup: John Price & Ian Roberts 43pts; Michael A Jones & R Harris 42pts; A McFarlane & Terry Dodd 40pts.

Dave Salter 9 Hole Comp: Jack Harris 20pts; Tony Evans 19pts; Andy Harris 18pts.

Henlle Park Invitation Day: M Brand, M Shaw, D Thomas & L Jones 92pts; M Pugh-Jones, C Parry, D Lawlor & R Lawlor 87pts; Williams, D Southwell, D S Jones & J Jones 84pts. Hole in 1: Stewart Page.

Ladies' Ladies Day Competition: Lady Captain (Henlle), Lynda Whitworth (Fair Haven), Nicola Baker (Fair Haven), & Michaela Pugh-Jones (Henlle) 98pts; Sue Field, Sue Madders, Ann Mountford & Sara Bowden 94pts (cb) (The Shropshire); Kathy Evans (Henlle), Margaret Dunbar (Oswestry), Anne Belshaw (The Shropshire) & Mair Robertson (The Shropshire) 94pts. Nearest the Pin (8th): Carol Johnson (Oswestry). Nearest the Pin (15th): Jill Andrews (Henlle).

HILL VALLEY

Easter Cup: J Barlow 36pts (11); C Edwards 36pts (13); K M Jones 35 (16).

Shop Stableford (Emerald): C Beddows 39pts (20); J Hembury 38pts (28); T Sheridan 37pts (13).

Shop Stableford (Emerald): C Ingall 37pts (05); G Briggs 36pts (06); J Cooke 34pts (20).

Emerald Medal & Jubilee Cup: J Robinson-Parker 82-11-71; C Huxley 85-12-73; D McConaghy 86-12-74.

Ladies' Coronation Foursomes (Emerald): Sa Tamura & S Coupe 38pts (11); Se Tamura & C Pickering 37pts (21); S Lockett & S Wynn 34pts (22).

Open (Emerald): S Piddock-Jones, H Piddock-Jones & M Young (Brookfield) 80pts; S Coupe HV, H Morris & M Mothershead (Brookfield) 78pts; S Lockett HV, H Dinsdale (Porta) & B Copernan (Brookfield) 76.

Mixed Frank & Mary Johnson Cup (Emerald), 2 scores to count: K Wood, J Taylor & S Tamura 80pts; G Briggs, C Beddows & D Minshall 79pts; P Chidlow, M McGreavy 77pts.

LILLESHELL HALL

Monthly Stableford & Chronicle Cup Division 1: Ian Smith 37; Peter Owen 36; David Stiles 36; Allan McCafferty 35; Mike Taylor 35; Andy Micklewright 35; Dave Moore 34; Division 2: Josh Cox 40; Timothy Holdcroft 40; Paul Reynolds 39; Martin Redden 39; Greg Pinchin 38; Barry Sheldon 36; Jo Moore 37.

Monthly Medal Division 1: David Stiles 75-9=66; Phil Harris 74-7=67; Tim Davies 81-1=70; Stuart Meadows 75-2=73; Mark Williams 86-13=73; Andy Micklewright 83-10=73; Chris Cann 84-11=73; Division 2: Paul Reynolds 80-14=66; Harry McHale 86-20=66; Roy Fisher 80-14=66; Alan Smith 87-17=70; Kevin Cole 87-17=70; Josh Cox 87-16=71; Mike Jones 92-21=71.

MILE END

May Stableford Division 1: Ricky Burke 40pts; Paul Miles 37pts; Neil Exton 36pts; Division 2: Roy Adkins 37pts; John Jones 36pts; Ian Horler 35pts; Division 3: Dave Griffiths 38pts; Michael Tisdale 38pts; Andrew Carsley 37pts. Nearest The Pin: Brian Evans 6ft 6".

Wednesday Social: Tom Young 24pts; Gary Harper 21pts; Mike Randall 20pts.

May Medal Division 1: Brian Evans 76-12=64; Steve Daniels 77-9=68; Trevor Rowlands 81-12=69; Division 2: Shaun Holloway 85-18=66; Michael Evans 86-17=69; Paul Eke 89-18=71; Division 3: Stuart Paterson 87-20=67; Stuart Rogers 92-23=69; Colin Wildblood 96-24=72. Nearest The Pin: Gary Harper 9ft 8".

Ladies' Coronation Foursomes: Anna Pugh & Sue Robson 37pts; Janice Turner & Angela Eke 28pts; Amanda Ord & Sheila Russell 27pts.

OSWESTRY

Thursday Medal: Jon Lawes 68-2=66 (cb); Jez Mielors 63-17=66; Andrew Roberts 70-3=67 (cb); Scott Harris 73-6=67; Andy Hall 73-5=68; Matthew Knapper 74-5=69 (cb). Best Gross: John Lawes 68.

Medal Trophy Four Ball Better Ball Medal: Simon Lewis & Scott Harris 59; Jon Lawes & Matthew Knapper 60 (cb); J Mike Jones & Nigel Suckley 60; John Delaney & Phil Wolstenholme 63 (cb); Andrew Shannon & Goronwy Griffiths 63.

SHREWSBURY

Ladies' 18 Hole Stableford Division 1: Jane Edwards 36pts; Jean Evans 36pts (cb); Karen Thaw 36pts; Division 2: Christine Piddock 37pts; Mary Saul 35pts; Marion Adams 34pts; Division 3: Rosie Malcolm 36pts; Kate George 36pts (cb); Pamela Mason 33pts.

THE BROW

Midweek Stableford: David Talbot 41pts; John Williams 39; Garry Gregory 39; Peter Barker 39.

Cross Country Golf: Ian Davies 37-9=28; Ed Davies 40-10=30; Graham Peterson 43-11=31; Peter Morris 37-5=31.5; John Youens 42-10=32.

Members Competition: Graham Peterson 36pts; Karl Fairbank 34; Garry Gregory 33.

WREKIN

LSP 1 Division 1: A Burnett 66; Division 2: N Murphy 62; Division 3: M Rice 65. HFC 1 Division 1: G C Hayward 86; Division 2: D J Grant 69; Division 3: M Parton 61. MWS 2: K Green 37pts.



Katie Hulme and Dora Tomlinson in the 80m hurdles final and (middle) Andrew Martin leads Kieran Beech in the hurdles and (right) Lauren Fishman

Shropshire Cricket Lge fixture list at weekend

Premier Division
Madeley v St Georges; Wern v Market Drayton; Frankton v Quatt; Whitchurch v Broseley; Newtown v Worfield; Ludlow v Albrighton.

Division One
Lilleshall v Condover; Bomere Heath v Wroxeter Grove; Welshpool v Montgomery; Forton v Knockin & Kinnerley; Alberbury v Beacon; Cound v Shelton.

Division Two
Church Stretton v Shifnal 3; Prees v Willey; Wellington 3 v Alliscott; Wheaton Aston v Church Aston; Ellesmere v Shrewsbury 3; Pontesbury v Bishop's Castle.

Division Three
Corvedale v Much Wenlock; Cae Glas v Acton Reynald; Iscoyd & Fenns Bank v Chelmarsh; Trysull & Seisdon v St Georges 3; Calverhall v Hodnet; Peplow & Tibberton; Harpers v Ludlow 3.

Division Four
Coton Hall v Guilsfield; Wroxeter Grove 3 v Hinstock; Oswestry 3 v Bridgnorth 3; Alliscott 2 v Quayside; Harcourt v Llanidloes.

Second Teams
Division One
Knockin & Kinnerley 2 v Whitchurch 2; Quatt 2 v Frankton 2; Wroxeter Grove 2 v Wern 2; Shelton 2 v Cound 2; Worfield 2 v Alberbury 2; St Georges 2 v Madeley 2.

Division Two
Condover 2 v Pontesbury 2; Beacon 2 v Wellington 4; Market Drayton 2 v Lilleshall 2; Montgomery 2 v Forton 2; Shifnal 4 v Bomere Heath 2; Willey 2 v Iscoyd & Fenns Bank 2; Albrighton 2 v Ludlow 2; Broseley 2 v Newtown 2.

Division Three
Acton Reynald 2 v Cae Glas 2; Beacon 3 v Ellesmere 2; Bishops Castle 2 v Alliscott 3; Much Wenlock 2 v Corvedale 2; Quatt 3 v Welshpool 2; St Georges 4 v Lilleshall 4.

Sunday
Division One
Wellington 5 v Worfield 3; Newport 3 v Wern 3; Knockin & Kinnerley 3 v Alberbury 3; Senniell 3 v Cound 3; Frankton 3 v Whitchurch 3; Bomere Heath 3 v Lilleshall 3.
Division Two
Shrewsbury 4 v Knockin & Kinnerley 4; Pontesbury 3 v Madeley 3; Oswestry 4 v Market Drayton 3; Madeley 4 v Bridgnorth 4; Ludlow 4 v Wellington 6.

Southern and Scott off to winning starts

CRAIG Southern and Peter Scott enjoyed their first competitive games for Oswestry Tennis Club's Men's thirds. For their first league foray this season, they travelled across the county to play Lilleshall Village.

Scott and Richard Hann were 0-5 down in the opening rubber. They pulled it back to 4-5 but lost 6-4. But they won the second set 6-2 and clinched the third on a tie-break before a 6-2, 6-3 win in the reverse.

Captain Keith Grice partnered Southern and they won 6-2, 6-0 and 6-2, 6-3 for a maximum four points.

Their second fixture was at home to Hollies 2. The wet night with constant rain interruptions didn't help. Hann and Gareth Hampson, both left-handers, got off to a good start with a 6-3, 1-6, 1-0, but were well beaten in the reverse 1-6, 2-6.

Southern and Peter Woolley lost both their rubbers in straight sets, 1-6, 2-6 and 3-6, 5-7.

The ladies' first team hosted their first home fixture against Shifnal 1. The visitors could only field one pair which automatically gave the home team a two points head start. Captain Josie Macrae and Kat Oakley comfortably took their rubber 6-2, 6-0 and Clare Hann and Speth Cumpston won 6-3, 7-6.

Respectable effort by Ifton

IFTON picked up a handy five winners from their trip to Burway in the Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowls League.

The St Martins side, lying fourth bottom, came away from south Shropshire with a respectable 9-5 loss despite losing the shots by 71 (239-168).

Geraint Williams and Martin Jones both won to 20, while Ian Metcalfe and Dave Bond prevailed to 19 and 18 respectively. Adrian Humphries secured the best result, 21-15 over Len Lewis 21-15.

Burway held sway, courtesy of four single figure wins, though Ifton's form player Leighton Roberts suffered a rare defeat. Ifton, six points off a top six place, host fourth placed Hanwood on Friday night.

Monty halt streak with opening win

MONTGOMERY halted their losing streak by gaining a welcome first win of the season in the Henshalls Shropshire League division one with a 74-run triumph against fellow strugglers Forton.

Invited to bat first, they managed to claw their way to 138 all out in the 45th over, opener Tim Davies top scoring on 33 and Ieuan Griffiths weighing in with 26.

The bowlers then took charge, skittling Forton for just 64 in 27.2 overs, with Aaron Ruff-Cock proving too hot to handle with 5-7 off 5.2 overs.

James Corfield weighed in with 3-12 off seven overs, while the highlight of the holding display was a stunning catch by Gareth Griffiths.

Monty picked up a maximum 25 points to move up to third bottom in the table, and above last weekend's opponents.

Fellow new boys WELSHPOOL are up to fourth in the first division after wrapping up a convincing seven wicket win away to Wroxeter Grove.

Target

Put in to bat, Wroxeter posted a useful 207-8 from their 45 over allocation, but Pool were up for the chase as they reached their target in 32 overs to claim 21 points.

It was also a good day for MONTGOMERY II who stormed to an eight-wicket win at Bomere Heath II

in the 2nd XI League division two. After bowling out their hosts for just 110, with David Jones snapping up four wickets for just 24 runs, they cantered to victory to pick up 20 points that kept them in second place.

WELSHPOOL II, looking to climb the 2nd XI League division three, had a winning draw against Acton Reynald II at Maesydre.

Asked to bat first, they racked up 211-8 in 40 overs thanks in the main to opener Nick Davies, who carried his bat for a fine unbeaten 113.

In reply, Reynald held out for a draw on 153-7, Jake Evans taking 3-32 and Keiran Evans 2-29. Pool picked up 16 points for their efforts.

Harrison lands the jackpot with pools

By John Bridgwater

HARTLEPOOL chief executive Pam Duxbury was delighted to appoint Craig Harrison as the man to revive fortunes at the Victoria Park club.

Former TNS boss Harrison faces the challenge of winning promotion back to League Two after Pools dropped down to the National League on a dramatic last day of the season.

Duxbury feels she has the right man to do the job following Harrison's trophy-laden career in charge of the Welsh Premier champions The New Saints.

In his time at Park Hall, the ambitious manager has lifted six Welsh Premier titles, four Welsh Cups and four League Cups.

Pools were relegated earlier this month after 96 years in the Football League, and had been without a boss since Dave Jones was sacked two games from the end of the season following a disastrous run of results.

Harrison, 39, becomes the sixth manager inside the last four years as Pools look for some stability at the helm.

"I'm looking forward to working with Craig as we embark on a rebuild of the club," said Duxbury.

"He knows what it takes to succeed and is determined to bring his winning formula to our club and get us back to where we belong in the Football League.



Craig Harrison

"I think fans and players alike will take to him when they see the passion, dedication and ideas that he has to take our club forward and realise its potential."

Pools have released nine players and while the club are unlikely to replace all nine, there is scope for the manager to bring in fresh blood. The move to Hartlepool sees a return to his native north east for Harrison who had been short listed for the Gateshead job last season.

Before joining TNS, Harrison – a former Middlesbrough, Crystal Palace and Preston North End defender – had spent the previous four years at Airbus UK Broughton where he was appointed manager at the beginning of July 2008.

As a player, Harrison signed YTS forms with Middlesbrough as a 16-year-old and was given his first team debut two years later by then manager and England legend Bryan Robson.

However, despite making an instant impact on the

Players chip in for golf fundraiser



SOME 112 players took teed off at Oswestry Town for a fundraising open golf day at Oswestry GC. It was won by a team from Llanymynech Golf Club. Pictured are the winning quartet from Llanymynech Golf Club, Gordon Jones, Mav Done, Ian Rodger and Jim Logsdail.

club's fortunes, Harrison's career was to falter after a catalogue of misfortunes. A burst appendix kept him out of the game for 18 months and after a loan spell with Preston North End, he joined Crystal Palace for £250,000.

However, a double compound fracture ended his football career until a chance meeting with Airbus boss Gareth Owen saw him become assistant manager at The Airfield in 2007.

Meanwhile, The New Saints continued their run of success by landing the Welsh Premier's fair play honour.

The league champions finished with 134 penalty points, 52 points clear at the top of the standings

following another disciplined campaign that saw just one red card. New boys Cardiff Met University were runners-up with one more red card, while Newtown finished in sixth spot, 86 points behind the Saints.

Propping up the table were relegated Rhyl who picked up 10 red cards in their season.

Ian Fisher, the FAW's Disciplinary Executive, said: "Each of the winners will be given £1,000 prize money for winning their respective divisions FAW Fair Play table and be presented with the FAW Fair Play trophy.

TNS were back in training last week after a break of just 21 days as they prepare for the Champions League qualifiers which get under way in late June.

Champions Ceiriog hitting top gear

IT WAS even stevens as mid-table Whittington A fought out a 5-5 draw at Corwen A in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division one.

Looking to reel off a third straight victory after a slow start, the villagers had led 5-3 on games, but basement club Corwen took the shots by just two (142-140) to earn parity. Mervyn Davies and Mel Morris both won 21-14 for Whittington.

After a slow start to their title defence, Ceiriog Valley A now appear to be in top gear as they trounced Johnstown B 9-1 (165-115) to move joint top. They share pole position with Chirk A who were also 9-1 (166-101) victors at home to CRIPTINS A.

ELLESMEIRE A notched a perfect 10 to step up their challenge in division two with a stunning victory against Plas Kynaston. Six single figure wins, including a best of the night 21-5 success from Mike Edwards, propelled the Meresiders to a 10-0 whitewash on home soil. The emphatic victory, by a shots aggregate of 85 (168-83), saw Ellesmere move joint top on 42 points along with Cynwyd A.

Previous leaders CHURCH A lost ground as they slipped into third spot following their 8-2 (148-126) reverse at YE OLDE CROFTE A. The unbeaten Steve Williams continued his good form for the

Bowls

Church, winning 21-4 for his seventh win out of seven outings. CHURCH B who secured a 7-3 win over visiting LLANURHAEDR A, taking the aggregate by just five shots (149-145).

WESTON RHYN A finished all square at 5-5 at lowly WHITTINGTON B who edged the aggregate by just three shots (143-140). Andrew Riley (21-12) impressed for Rhyn with his sixth victory in seven outings. Terry Thompson (21-3), Rob Clay (to five) and Keith Miner (to six) were all strong winners as CRIPTINS B swept past Llanyngnog A 8-2 (147-96).

GEORGE slipped to third bottom after a 9-1 (165-105) beating at Cynwyd A. Fourth placed CHURCH C lost ground on the third division leaders after their 8-2 (164-128) beating away at Johnstown C.

It was a better night for CRIPTINS C in third place, who stayed hard on the heels of the leaders after winning 7-3 (161-129) at home to Bersham. Ross Rogers leading the way to four. ELLESMEIRE B moved clear of the basement stragglers after overcoming FOX LANE 7-3 (162-134). BLACK LION enjoyed a welcome 8-2 (152-117) home suc-

cess against Ceiriog Valley C. Sefond placed IFTON are going well in division four, with their 7-3 (149-126) success at WHITTINGTON E keeping them three points off top spot in the table. Tony Birch (21-6) was one of three single figure victors as LLANYFYLLIN A made short work of Llanrhaeadr C 9-1 (154-101).

Results: Division One: Johnstown A 9 (154) Ruabon A 4 (153), Chirk A 9 (166) Crippins A 1 (101), Flexsys A 7 (134) Llangollen A 3 (123), Corwen A 5 (142) Whittington A 5 (140), Ceiriog Valley A 9 (165) Johnstown B 1 (115). Free date: Llanymynech A.

Division Two: Ye Olde Crofte A 5 (148) Church A 2 (126), Chirk B 7 (149) Llanrhaeadr A 3 (144), Crippins B 8 (147) Llangnog A 2 (96), Whittington B 5 (143) Weston Rhyn 5 (140), Cynwyd A 9 (161) George 1 (105), Ellesmere A 10 (168) Plas Kynaston A 0 (83).

Division three: Ceiriog Valley B 7 (155) Llangollen B 3 (114), Chirk B 2 (111) Johnstown D 8 (153), Johnstown C 8 (163) Church C 2 (128), Ellesmere B 7 (162) Fox Lane 3 (134), Black Lion 8 (152) Ceiriog Valley C 2 (117), Crippins C 8 (151) Bersham 2 (129).

Division four: Porciau Park A 10 (168) Overton C 0 (46), Chirk D 9 (152) Llangnog B 1 (84), Llanyfyllin B 5 (147) Cynwyd C 5 (136), Llanrhaeadr E 6 (147) Weston Rhyn D 4 (133), Church E 7 (159) Whittington D 3 (129).

Hutchinson haul in vain as Frankton slump to loss

DESPITE a terrific spell of bowling from Jack Hutchinson, Frankton find themselves being dragged down the Henshalls Shropshire League premier division table after suffering a 65-run loss at Market Drayton.

Hutchinson finished with 7-46 as Drayton were bowled out for 208 in 49 overs.

Frankton started well enough in reply, Ian Whitticase making 27 in a first wicket stand of 40, but they slumped to 143 all out in the 36th over.

FRANKTON II proved too strong for Wroxeter Grove as they raced to a 167-run victory in the 2nd XI League division one.

Half centuries from Tom Cockayne (56) and Cian Jones (52no) propelled Frankton to 223-7 declared in 42.2 overs. Will James snapped up 6-27 as Wroxeter were routed for just 56, Brad Stackhouse weighing in with 4-14.

A century from skipper Steven Gray helped KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY to a thrilling tie with Alberbury in the first division at the Nursery Ground.

Alberbury posted 241-8 in 45 overs, opener Michael Crawshaw finishing unbeaten on 96 after figuring in a 123-run opening stand with Charles Bourne (52). Knockin's reply was dominated by Gray's 107 as they earned parity.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY III were three-wicket winners against Cound in the Sunday division one.

Joe Kynaston took 3-20 and Martin Ellis 2-30 as Cound were limited to 187-7 in their 40 overs.

Knockin knocked off the runs with more than three overs remaining, Gary Darlington making 51 and Kynaston an unbeaten 49.

Skipper hits 54, but Glas run smashed

HAVING reeled off four straight wins, Cae Glas suffered their first loss in their Henshalls Shropshire League division three campaign.

Put in at Corvedale the Glas mustered 160-6 in 40 overs, skipper George Candler unbeaten on 54. They were downed by three wickets with four overs to spare, Ross Mantle making 69.

Next up, the Glas are at home at Gatacre to Acton Reynald.

CAE GLAS II overcame Corvedale II by seven wickets in the 2nd XI League division three with 15 overs to spare. Three wickets apiece from Matthew Coulson and John Clarke helped restrict Dale to 139-9 in their 40 overs. Tim Smith then struck an unbeaten 36 in reply.

ELLESMEIRE maintained their place among the leading pack in division two, although Church Aston clung on for a draw.

Put in to bat, they were dismissed for 190 in the 40th over, Kieran Barry falling just three runs short of a century. Ashley Thomas took 5-42 off 13 overs in reply, but Church Aston held out on 137-9 at the close.

ELLESMEIRE II limited St Georges IV to 145-6 in division three and won by three wickets, Tristan Lloyd 61no and Aeraon Clegg 52no.

Guilsfield still hot on heels

GUILDSFIELD stayed hard on the heels of the leaders in the Shropshire Cricket League division four after easing to a seven-wicket win over Llanidloes.

In a game reduced to 35 overs a side, they restricted their visitors to 143-5 before knocking off the runs with almost four overs to spare to pick up 20 points.

A patient unbeaten 65 from opener Will Denham held the Llani innings together, with James Denham weighing in with 30 at six to help the visitors to a respectable tally. Guilsfield paced their reply well to get over the line with relative comfort, with opener David Harris making 45 before Sam Birch added an unbeaten 49 to his earlier two wickets.



The Saints go marching into FA Vase

AMBITIOUS St Martins are relishing the prospect of competing in the FA Vase for the first time next season.

The revitalised village club, who stormed up the West Midlands League division one last term, were successful in their application to play in the competition.

"It will be the first time in our history that we take part in the FA Vase and the club are naturally delighted to be making that progress to national competitions," said a spokesman.

"We hope the people of the village will get behind us. We expect new faces in the squad, and our aim is too get the village to support us in our quest to give the village community a football club to be proud of."

The FA Vase first qualifying round starts in September. Saints open their pre-season with a friendly at Market Drayton Town on July 11, before visiting Ellesmere Rangers the week after.

They host Whitechurch Alport in the Derek Stokes Trophy at Park Hall on July 21 before taking on Shawbury United at Hanwood on July 25.

Saints then travel over the border to face Guilsfield on August 1, before the West Midlands League division one campaign starts on Saturday, August 5.

Meanwhile, Jordan Gerrard was named the manager's player of the season and Jamie Hands the players' player. The Committee player was won by James Durman, the clubman award went Andy Joseph, and Derek and Sue Stokes took the long service award.

Rachel aiming to down rivals

WORLD champion Rachel Atherton looks to continue her record winning run in the 2017 UCI Downhill Mountain Bike World Cup which heads to Scotland for the second round this weekend.

The Llanrhaeadr ace made it a remarkable 14 victories in a row in the opening round of the 2017 UCI Downhill Mountain Bike World Cup in France back in April.

She hopes to maintain her dominance in Fort William on Saturday and Sunday, before heading to Leogang in Austria for the third round the following week.

Atherton, 29, is already 50 points clear in the women's world cup ranking after her winning start, a lead she will be out to extend north of the border.

Rivals face-to-face on the cricket pitch

LOCAL rivals Welshpool and Montgomery come face to face in a Henshalls Shropshire Cricket League division one derby at Maesydre on Saturday (1pm).

Monty can take heart from a welcome 74-run win against lowly Forton, while Welshpool wrapped up a convincing seven-wicket win at Wroxeter Grove. Knockin & Kinnerley – who tied with Alberbury – visit Forton.

In division three, CAE GLAS host Acton Reynald after defeat against Corvedale. ELLESMERE host Shrewsbury III in division two, while Frankton entertain Quatt in the premier division.

Roman Walker – he's a Centurion!

EARLY leaders Oswestry bid to maintain their perfect start to the Birmingham Cricket League division two when they host Old Elizabethans on Saturday (midday).

The Morda Road men have got off to a flier, with five successive wins taking them to the 100-point mark – and 16 points clear at the top of the table. Warrick Fynn continued his terrific form with the bat by hammering another half century.

The all-rounder had rattled up scores of 107, 132, 74 and 82 in his previous four innings before adding an unbeaten 79 as Robbie Clarke's side cantered to a 10 wicket win at Old Hill.

They bowled out their hosts for 171, before

Cricket by John Bridgwater

openers, Fynn and Joe Carrasco (73no), knocked off the runs without loss.

Clarke said: "It was a great performance, but we know there's still plenty of hard work to do."

This weekend sees the league revert to the 55-over format, with bowlers allowed 17 overs. Old Elizabethans boast another one of the division's highest run-scorers Atiq ur-Rehman.

A swashbuckling century by Roman Walker led OSWESTRY II to victory in a high-scoring match against Brewood II at Morda Road in the Bir-

mingham League 2nd XI second division (north). Brewood ran up 278-5 in their 45 overs – thanks largely to Stephen Whyte (87) and Stuart Jevons (73no). A rain delay meant Oswestry were set a formidable revised target of 225 from 29 overs, but Walker raced to 119 not out to see Oswestry home with 2.3 overs to spare.

In the Shropshire League division four OSWESTRY III were bowled out for 76 by Hinckstock, who reached their target in 11.2 overs.

Despite a battling performance at Bridgnorth, OSWESTRY IV lost by four wickets in the Sunday League division two. Oswestry were bowled out for 116, but took six wickets in reply.

BUSINESS AS USUAL AT TNS

By John Bridgwater

THE New Saints insist it's business as usual after Craig Harrison's departure, as the club prepares for its Champions League first round qualifier.

Harrison left the Welsh Premier champions to take over at National League side Hartlepool United in his native north east.

His exit ends a trophy-laden reign in which TNS lifted six titles, four Welsh Cups and four League Cups including back-to-back trebles and a record run of 27 consecutive wins.

With coach Carl Darlington having also left to join Wrexham, assistant Scott Ruscoe will take interim charge with Steve Evans.

However, they will not be in contention to succeed Harrison as neither hold a UEFA Pro licence required to take charge of a club in European competition. Further UEFA rules state that the club has 60 days to appoint a successor, giving them a deadline of July 25.

Transition

Saints' chief operating officer Ian Williams said the club had already received several enquiries, and Park Hall officials would meet this week before officially releasing an advert for the position. "Hopefully there'll be a seamless transition – it's very much business as usual."

As part of the preparations for a sixth consecutive Champions League campaign, the club heads north of the English border to compete in behind close doors games against Aberdeen, Rangers and St Johnstone.

The Saints begin their Champions League journey with the first qualifying round first-leg tie on either June 27 or 28 – the draw is made in Switzerland on June 19. The lowest of the unseeded sides are KF Trepcia '89 of Kosovo, FCI Tallinn of Estonia are the next-lowest seeded. Other potential opponents are Europa FC of Gibraltar, La Fiorita of San Marino and highest-seeded Alashkert of Armenia.

Young defender Tom Matthews has left The New Saints after just a season.

Moment to savour for COBRA



COBRA captain Hywel Jones receives the Cambrian Mid Wales Shield

COBRA ended the season on a high after their second team lifted the Mid Wales Shield with a 17-0 victory over local rivals Welshpool in the final at Llanidloes.

It has been a tough campaign for the Meifod side whose senior string were relegated from the North Wales League division one (north) last season.

But the club ended on a positive note. Beaten by Machynlleth in the last year's final, COBRA earned victory over their Powys rivals with all their points coming in the first half. Fly half Will Worthington landed an early penalty, prop

Nico Williams then crashed over for a try after being fed from short range, with Worthington adding the extras. Centre Sion Wyn Williams crossed for a second touchdown, with Worthington again converting.

Last weekend's clubs will come face to face again next season in the North Wales division two (north) following a restructuring of the leagues.

Meanwhile, Gareth Anwyl's last-gasp try earned Llanidloes the Cambrian Training Mid Wales Cup with a thrilling 24-17 final victory over Newtown.

Shropshire raring to go according to Krikken

DIRECTOR of cricket Karl Krikken believes Shropshire have the ability to emerge as strong contenders in the Unicorns Championship ahead of their opening three-day match of the season this weekend.

Shropshire will begin their Western Division campaign against Wales Minor Counties at Pontarddulais on Sunday (11am).

Shropshire will then follow it up with home matches against Herefordshire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire while they will also face trips to Cornwall and Devon later this summer.

Krikken and his players, led for a second season by captain Steve Leach, are raring to go ahead of a much anticipated Championship campaign.

Krikken said: "Three-day cricket is something that we've been most comfortable in over the past few years. We played some very good cricket in many of the matches last season and I feel we can look forward with genuine optimism."

Krikken hopes to be able to field a settled side as he believes continuity of selection can only enhance Shropshire's prospects of success.

"If you can get a good, settled side then that does help, although I suppose a team only stays settled if you keep winning," he stressed. "We've got some good players in three-day cricket, some good pros and some good youngsters, some good home grown players, so we are certainly looking forward to it."

Shropshire's only victory in their four group matches in this season's Unicorns Knockout Trophy came against Wales Minor Counties at Oswestry earlier this month, a six-wicket triumph, with promising Shifnal all-rounder Charlie Home taking 7-52, setting a new one-day bowling record for the county in the process.

But Krikken said it's never totally clear just what sort of side Wales will field.

"I think the Wales team depends on the clientele and which players they have available."

"But we really have to concentrate on ourselves and we will take the strongest side that's available."

Llanfair could drink from cup of cheer

LLANFAIR United gave themselves the chance to end the season on a high after defeating Berriew 3-2 at Newtown's Latham Park to reach the final of the Montgomeryshire Challenge Cup.

Goals from Andrew Hughes, Paul Griffiths and James Davies saw United through to meet Llanrhaeadr in the final at Llanfyllin this week.

Richard Davies and Karl Seliarts replied for the Rhiewiders who, despite the defeat, enjoyed a fine campaign that saw them win the Spar Mid Wales League Cup while finishing third on their return to the first division.

Llanrhaeadr, who lost to Berriew in the Spar final, will be out to make amends by lifting some silverware in the last action of the season. The final was at Llanfyllin on Wednesday.



Membership available now

For more details please contact the secretary John Evans (Secretary)

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